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Southeast Asia Report



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14 February 1985

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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

HAYDEN ON ETHIOPIA RELIEF--Australia has made strong representations to the Ethiopian Government to ensure that all emergency relief seized by the Ethiopian authorities last week is used for people in needy regions. The foreign affairs minister, Mr Hayden, said today that Australia's overriding objective was to get through quickly to drought victims by the immediate release of the seized wheat. The Australian Government has concluded it is most unlikely that any of the aid shipment seized at Port (Asaud) will be released for distribution in rebel-controlled areas in Eritrea and Tigre. Mr Hayden said the Australia Government was not concentrating its efforts in securing the release of the food aid for distribution in areas where it was desperately needed. In the meantime, funds within the total Ethiopian emergency relief budget would be adjusted so that the distribution of food aid by nongovernment organizations would not be disadvantaged by the Ethiopian Government's action at Port (Asaud). [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 22 Jan 85 BK]

CSO: 4200/447

CAMBODIA

SIHANOUK INTERVIEWED ON CGDK ALLIANCE, OUTLOOK

PM241221 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 20-21 Jan 85 Sunday Supplement p 5

["R.U." interview with exiled Cambodian leader Prince Sihanouk; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Mr President, how do you view Cambodia's future?

Answer: I am optimistic, very optimistic, irrespective of whatever situation may develop at any moment in the field--I mean the military field. Vietnam is attacking the liberated zones in force with heavy guns, mortars, and tanks, is causing casualties even among the civilian population, and may secure possession of the occasional village; and, as everyone knows, the dry season, when the rains end, is always the time for an offensive. But we enjoy an invaluable advantage: the help of the population, who have aligned unanimously without fighters--the forces of Democratic Kampuchea. The Cambodian people see the situation very clearly, judge it objectively for what it is; in other words, they see that the Vietnamese came to Cambodia not to liberate the Cambodians but solely to Vietnamize the country. There is no other explanation for why there are 500,000 Vietnamese on our land exploiting our natural resources and 200,000 Vietnamese troops occupying our country.

Question: Is there a chance of negotiations between you and the Vietnamese?

Answer: It is Vietnam that has rejected all proposals for a solution to the Cambodian conflict--I mean all proposals for a peaceful solution. Vietnam has rejected not only all the UN resolutions--the request for a withdrawal of troops, and so forth--but also the proposals put forward by a number of Southeast Asian countries suggesting a conference, a meeting of all the sides concerned--extremely moderate and reasonable proposals. So it is clear that Vietnam is determined not only to reject all our requests for an independent and nonaligned Cambodia but also to turn our country into a mere province of its own--an occupied province. This is another reason why the Cambodian people, who are a proud and very patriotic people, understand us and help us, help the coalition government and the anti-Vietnamese coalition army. The forces of Democratic Kampuchea are now better armed than in the past and have strengthened their military potential, which is something that transcends the loss or gain of a few villages. We now have a larger number of fighting units, more weapons,

more ammunition; we are more knowledgeable about the problems of war and so can attack our enemies at various different points in Cambodia, extending the liberated zones and occupying further villages for every village lost, attacking actual cities, and weakening the economic and military strength of the Vietnamese with the cooperation of the inhabitants of the villages and cities. So to sum up I could say that Vietnam faces a crucial choice: It does not have--and will never have--peace in Cambodia, and some day it will have to withdraw from our country and accept a national conference, in other words, it will have to negotiate with us. At the moment Vietnam rejects the idea of negotiations, and that is why we continue and will continue to fight until we secure justice, that is, territorial integrity and complete independence.

Question: The forces of democratic Cambodia are very diverse--communists, nationalists, neutralists. How do you manage to coexist and, in particular, how do you manage to coexist with the Pol Potite communists, who in the past were directly responsible for so many massacres and so much terror in your country?

Answer: Cambodians are primarily patriots, and we are all patriots. The Democratic Party of Kampuchea--I mean the one that used to be called the communist party--has corrected its policy line and many things have changed, as anyone visiting the liberated zones of Cambodia can see. People are relatively well nourished and well clothed, peasants have their own land and can buy and sell freely, and there has even been a restoration of religious freedom--Buddhism, Islam, and so forth. I personally was able to give funds to the monks of a monastery in the liberated zones so that they could construct a new temple. In other words the situation has changed, to the extent that the Democratic Party of Kampuchea--I repeat, the one that used to call itself the Khmers Rouges--has assured me that it wants to be not just communist but a nationalist party like others. We have a single political platform for Cambodia's future, and the Democratic Party too has promised me very solemnly that it intends to respect the coalition government's platform for a free democracy based on a decisionmaking parliament.

So first of all there must be free elections, then a government answerable for its actions to parliament. Furthermore, an economic system based on free enterprise. This is what I have been promised, though obviously I cannot know how sincere or otherwise they are, but there are at least three positive points which provide a guarantee for the future: 1--The Democratic Party now acts very liberally in the liberated areas; 2--the population would not have it otherwise; 3--there is now no longer a single country (not even China, which has condemned the Cultural Revolution) that could ever support another experiment in total communism that took no account of human rights. It is thanks to this combination of factors that we have been able to achieve a joint platform.

Question: When were these promises made, and by whom?

Answer: They were made to me by Deputy President Khieu Samphan, former Foreign Minister Ieng Sary--in short, their entire leadership, because,

as I said, as president of Democratic Kampuchea I need to be clear about the policy of the Khmers Rouges, of what is now called the Democratic Party of Kampuchea. We have already had four cabinet meetings, attended by Prime Minister Son Sann as well as by Deputy President Khieu Samphan, and we discussed Cambodia's future, because, among other things, it was inconceivable that Son Sann's nationalists could form a coalition with the former Khmers Rouges without receiving assurances and elucidations from them. We have received these assurances and elucidations, and have thus launched a joint policy platform, not only for the present but also for the future of Cambodia. We want tomorrow's Cambodia to be a democracy, not only in the political field but also in the social and economic fields.

Question: If it proves possible to hold peace negotiations, who will you accept at the negotiating table?

Answer: The problem is how to guarantee this peace, and we are flexible on this point. The Vietnamese invaded and occupied Cambodia on the Soviets' behalf, and, if some day an international conference is convened to seek a solution to the Cambodian problem, all the sides concerned must take part--not just the members of our government coalition, the Southeast Asian countries, and China, but also the other side, including Vietnam and Russia.

Question: Mr President, the Vietnamese persist in claiming that they are in Cambodia not to occupy it but solely to liberate it from the terror of Pol Pot.

Answer: Prime Minister Son Sann has already announced to the press very clearly that such claims by Vietnam are designed to create a split between the patriotic forces of our national liberation front. Prime Minister Son Sann is not a Khmer Rouge; he is a nationalist, and the fact that he declares the Vietnamese assertions unacceptable means among other things that our coalition is an actual reality. We cannot permit ourselves the luxury of remaining divided, otherwise the Vietnamese can never be defeated. We must remain united.

Question: What could Pol Pot's future role be?

Answer: Pol Pot is chief of staff of the Cambodian liberation army, and it is in this capacity that he works and acts. I do not know whether he could, or would want to perform government duties in the future. The fact remains that this future government will not be, cannot be, the government of a single-party system; it will be initially a coalition government, then a government chosen by the people through free elections.

Question: Let us turn back, Mr President, to the years of Pol Pot's terror. You were at least officially Cambodian president, but you were no longer mentioned; you were said to be a kind of unofficial prisoner of the regime.

Answer: That is not true. When I realized that their policy--the policy of the Khmers Rouges--was too harsh on my people, on the Cambodian people, I took the decision to resign my post. They--Khieu Samphan, Ieng Sary, and others--came to me twice to ask me to remain head of state. But I refused and decided to resign. That is the historical truth.

Question: Do you believe that direct negotiations between China and the Soviet Union could prove useful to Cambodia?

Answer: The Soviet Union and China are two sovereign states and as such have the right to hold a dialogue or not. I mean to remain mutually hostile or to achieve a reconciliation, and so forth. I do not want to interfere in their decisions. But as far as Cambodia is concerned, it must be clear that no solution can be imposed on us without our direct consent. We too are a sovereign state, we are UN members, and we have the duty and the right to take part in all negotiations about Cambodia--negotiations between Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries, negotiations between China and Russia, and so forth. Cambodia's future cannot be determined by anyone in the absence of the Cambodian people and their legitimate representatives. I know that often--too often--the order of this part of the world has been determined by others, at a negotiating table at which the people's wishes were not taken into account. This is an error which has heavily burdened the peoples of the Indochina peninsula. It is an error that must never again be repeated.

CSO: 4628/3

CAMBODIA

LEADERS CONDOLE CSSR DEFENSE MINISTER'S DEATH

BK220812 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0407 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Phnom Penh, 22 Jan (SPK)--Upon hearing of the death of Martin Dzur, member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] Central Committee and minister of national defense, Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, and Hun Sen, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, expressed their saddest condolences in a message to Gustav Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ and president of the CSSR, and to Lubomir Strougal, member of the CPCZ Presidium and CSSR premier. The message says:

Martin Dzur was an eminent son of the Czechoslovak people and a fighter who had tirelessly carried out his noble internationalist tasks for the development of the bonds of militant solidarity among the armed forces of Czechoslovakia and the armed forces of other member countries of the Warsaw Pact for progress and world peace.

"The death of Martin Dzur is not only a loss to the Czechoslovak people but also to the Cambodian people and peace-loving progressive forces the world over," stresses the message which continues:

An intimate friend of the Cambodian people, Martin Dzur enormously contributed to the strengthening of the bonds of solidarity and friendship between the CSSR and the PRK.

"We do share this great pain of the CPCZ Central Committee, the Czechoslovak people, and the bereaved family," says the message.

CSO: 4219/35

CAMBODIA

BRIEFS

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM AFGHANISTAN--Phnom Penh, 21 Jan (SPK)--The KPRP delegation returned to Phnom Penh last Sunday after attending the celebration of the 20th founding anniversary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. While in Kabul, the delegation--led by Mrs Men Sam-an, member of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the party Central Committee's Propaganda and Education Commission--was received by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council, and met with several other leaders of the Afghan party. The delegation also signed with the Afghan side a protocol on cooperation between the KPRP and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 1220 GMT 21 Jan 85]

MISLED PERSONS SURRENDER--Phnom Penh, 21 Jan (SPK)--Toward the end of December of last year, eight persons from the Sereika forces defected to join the revolution in Sisophon District in Battambang Province, 300 km northwest of Phnom Penh. The rallied men brought to the revolutionary authorities 11 rifles, 2 grenades, and a large quantity of ammunition and military equipment. They were warmly welcomed by the local state authorities and people. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0402 GMT 21 Jan 85]

POLISH DELEGATION ARRIVES--Phnom Penh, 14 Jan (SPK)--A delegation of the National Council of the Polish Renaissance Patriotic Movement led by Josef Kukulke, vice president, arrived in Phnom Penh Monday for an official visit to Cambodia. It was welcomed on arrival by Men Chhan, member of the State Council and vice chairman of the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, and Prach Sun, vice president of the party Central Committee's Commission for External Relations, and others. Polish Ambassador to Cambodia Ludwik Klackowski was also on hand. The same day, the Polish delegation laid a wreath at the monument for the dead. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 0503 GMT 15 Jan 85]

CSO: 4219/35

INDONESIA

MOKHTAR RETURNS HOME FROM 4-COUNTRY TOUR

BK251253 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja returned home this evening after touring India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Burma. He delivered Indonesian Government invitations to attend the 30th anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung in April to the governments of the four countries which initiated the conference. Upon his arrival at Halim Perdanakusumah Airport, Minister Mokhtar told newsmen that the four countries had accepted the invitations and expressed their opinion that the 30th anniversary of the Bandung Conference is indeed worth celebrating. During the upcoming celebration, it is hoped that a declaration will be produced to remedy the current world situation. [Passage containing Mokhtar's recorded speech indistinct]

Minister Mokhtar also said that all African and Asian countries which participated in the 1955 conference, as well as the existing African and Asian countries of today, will be invited to attend the celebration. Countries which initiated the 1955 conference are expected to send their foreign ministers, while other countries are expected to send fully authorized senior officials.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who has been invited in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, has basically accepted the invitation, but it still depends on his domestic commitments as to whether or not he can attend the celebration.

On his way home, Minister Mokhtar made a stopover in Singapore and held talks with Foreign Minister Suppiah Dhanabalan on a meeting of ASEAN senior officials to be held in Jakarta tomorrow, which is aimed at preparing a conference on Pacific region cooperation in Jakarta 28-29 January.

CSO: 4213/125

INDONESIA

MOKHTAR BRIEFS SUHARTO ON SOUTH ASIA, BURMA TRIP

BK260757 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja reported to President Suharto at the Bina Graha Presidential Office in Jakarta this morning on the outcome of his week-long visit to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Burma, particularly on the response of these countries' leaders to the 30th anniversary commemoration of the Afro-Asian Conference scheduled for next April.

Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja told newsmen that the leaders have welcomed the 30th anniversary commemoration of the Afro-Asian Conference. A special invitation for the commemoration ceremony was extended to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja also reported to President Suharto on his planned departure for Bangkok to attend an ASEAN ministerial meeting. The meeting, scheduled for 11-12 February, will discuss the reports by ASEAN senior officials on the Asia-Pacific cooperation program on the development of human resources. The topics to be discussed include, among other things, the work mechanism and the attitude of the Asia-Pacific countries toward some countries outside the Asia-Pacific region that may be interested in contributing to this cooperation.

CSO: 4213/125

INDONESIA

COMMENTARY ON PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S SOUTHEAST ASIA VISIT

BK261328 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] As part of his Southeast Asian tour, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will fly to Hanoi next Monday for talks with Vietnamese leaders. Prior to his visit to Hanoi, Perez de Cuellar is stopping over in Bangkok which recently lodged a protest with the United Nations over Vietnam's incursion into Thai territory during the latter's offensive in Cambodia. According to observers in Bangkok, Thailand has gained an opportunity to draw international attention to its burden as a result of the conflict between Vietnam and the Cambodian people who are waging a guerrillas war near the Thai-Cambodian border.

After visiting Hanoi, Perez de Cuellar will again return to Bangkok to meet leader of the Cambodian coalition Prince Sihanouk, who is scheduled to arrive in the Thai capital next Friday.

It should be remembered that Cambodia has two governments--the Democratic Kampuchean Government under Sihanouk's leadership on the one hand and the Heng Samrin-led PRK Government on the other.

Faced with twin governments, the United Nations--with Perez de Cuellar as its secretary general--recognizes the Sihanouk government, while the Soviet Union and its allies recognize the Heng Samrin government. The UN adopts the universalist principle calling for free elections as a means of resolving the twin governments issue. Conversely, the Soviet Union and its allies adopt the principle of a sphere of influence, calling for the recognition of the Heng Samrin government because the latter is supported by Vietnamese troops capable of occupying Cambodia up to the Thai border. In accordance with the principle of a sphere of influence, the Sihanouk government would only be able to gain recognition if Thai troops were able to occupy Cambodia up to the Vietnamese border. However, Thailand does not adopt the principle of a sphere of influence but joins the United Nations in maintaining the principle of universalism.

By destroying the Cambodian guerrillas' bases in its stepped-up military offensive, Vietnam hopes that the world will eventually abandon the principle of universalism and accept the sphere of influence it is implementing in Cambodia. Consequently, Perez de Cuellar's tour of Southeast Asia as part of his wider visit has drawn attention from regional observers. His tasks as UN secretary general are indeed not easy.

INDONESIA

JAKARTA HOSTS ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

BK251204 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] A 2-day meeting of ASEAN senior officials is being held in Jakarta today to prepare for a conference on Pacific region cooperation on 28-29 January. The preparatory meeting is discussing problems which may arise from human resources cooperation in the Pacific region. A meeting of ASEAN senior officials and their dialogue partners in the Pacific will later discuss these problems.

Opening the preparatory meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat office this morning, Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja stressed the need to utilize existing training centers in ASEAN countries in an effort to promote human resources development programs. In Indonesia, such training centers include the air communication training center in Curug and the navigation academy in Jakarta. ASEAN countries and several countries in the Pacific have now made use of these training centers. Minister Mokhtar considered several centers in the ASEAN countries to be excellent, while those which have not met the requirements will be improved through cooperation with dialogue partner countries.

The 2-day meeting of ASEAN senior officials is being held behind closed doors.

CSO: 4213/125

INDONESIA

INAYAMA, SUHARTO DISCUSS PLYWOOD TARIFF GAP

OW281045 Tokyo KYODO in English 1029 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Jakarta, 28 Jan (KYODO)--Yoshihiro Inayama, leader of a visiting Japanese trade mission, Monday vowed to put pressure on the Japanese Government to reduce its import tariff on Indonesian plywood, which is comparatively higher than that on North American plywood.

Inayama, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), is now leading a 30-member Keidanren mission touring member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

He reiterated his view at a press conference that the tariff gap, severely criticized by Indonesia, is "unreasonable" and he thinks on behalf of the powerful business organization that it should be removed.

Japan recently cut its tariff on Indonesian broadleaf tree plywood from 19.3 percent to 17 percent, but this is still higher with the 15 percent imposed on North American needle-leaf tree plywood.

Indonesian President Suharto expressed strong dissatisfaction Saturday with the different duties imposed by Japan on North American and Indonesian plywood when he met with Inayama.

Inayama also said he will endeavor to mobilize Japanese efforts to help Indonesia in its long-range economic plan aimed at establishing a self-reliant economy through expansion of manufactured non-energy products.

CSO: 4200/450

INDONESIA

DAILY ON BLAST AT EAST JAVA AMMUNITION DEPOT

SK311118 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 25 Jan 85 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] An explosion occurred at an old ammunition depot belonging to the Indonesian Air Force at Jatigendol Village, Kedunggalar Subdistrict, Ngawi District in East Java at 0215 on Thursday, 24 January [1915 GRT 23 January]. The blast damaged 26 houses and some ricefields belonging to the local people, but no casualties were reported.

Colonel Suharjo, the 031 military area commander, said this to newsmen at the Iswahyudi Air Base in Malang on Thursday night. According to the air base commander, Colonel Sutikno, the explosion of the ammunition, the casing of which had been removed, resulted in one loud sound. For the time being, the blast is presumed to have occurred due to some chemical process inside the under ground depot. Air force officials never thought the blast would happen.

Material damage was estimated at about 2.4 million rupiah and the air force will soon finance the restoration of the damaged houses.

The military area commander also appealed to the public to remain calm and not to associate the blast with the recent bomb blast at Borobudur Temple.

CSO: 4213/134

INDONESIA

TEMPO REPORTS GRENADE ATTACK ON POLICEMEN

BK291333 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 26 Jan 85 pp 12, 13

[Summary] The incident occurred at about 0200 [1900 GMT 19 January] on Sunday, 20 January. In the wee hours of the morning, having just finished their meal, three policemen from Gambir [a district in Jakarta] police station left a restaurant to go to their station, only 1 km away.

Seconds after their pickup truck began to move, there was an explosion in their truck. The gathering crowd could not approach the burning vehicle, from which they heard the sounds of exploding bullets. Hearing the initial explosion and the bullets, policemen from the nearby Gambir police station rushed to render aid. A firefighting unit arrived, followed by an ambulance.

"They found Second Sergeant Suharto, 21, who was the driver, dead. First Corporal Rengah Samba, 30, sitting in the middle, was injured in the legs while First Sergeant Mukiyo, 42, sitting on the left, was thrown out of the vehicle. He suffered minor injuries on his right knee, forehead, and left shoulder. Both are now being treated at Catot Subrot Hospital."

"According to the Armed Forces Information Center, an explosive was thrown by two identified men on a motorcycle who are still at large. The incident, according to the information center, was not politically motivated. One source disclosed that the explosive used was a hand grenade commonly used for practice and called an offensive grenade. It is cylindrical and is thrown after its detonator pin has been pulled off."

The grenade was probably thrown from the left, bypassing the two sitting policemen to fall at the driver's feet. This explains Suharto's death, while Mukiyo suffered only minor injuries.

"It was the first time that an explosive has been thrown at a patrolmen's vehicle. An earlier attack against a police station at Cicendo, Bandung, by the Imran gang in 1981 killed three policemen. The motive for throwing a hand grenade at a police vehicle last Sunday had not yet been uncovered by press time on Tuesday [22 January] morning."

CSO. 4213/134

INDONESIA

JAKARTA ON ASEAN-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION

BK291438 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Pacific region has good prospects for future economic development, so it is not surprising that this region is receiving international attention. As part of economic development, Indonesia has utilized the concept of developing human resources. Foreign Minister Hokhtar Kusumaatmaja elaborated on this idea at a meeting in Jakarta today between ASEAN members and five other countries: the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Japan. These five countries have welcomed the idea, which will be embodied in the concept of Pacific cooperation--namely, regular exchanges of views on the development and prospects of the Pacific region [words indistinct] for the development of human resources [words indistinct].

The 2-day meeting, which began in Jakarta today, is an important event. It will determine the facilities that can be accorded to developing countries in the Pacific region. This issue will be discussed in more detail at an ASEAN foreign ministers meeting to be held in Bangkok next month, and a decision on it will be made by these foreign ministers in a meeting in Kuala Lumpur in June or July of this year.

Indeed, it is true that the concept of Pacific cooperation should still be discussed in more detail and that the present talks have only been at the preliminary state and [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, this stage is indeed important as it will enable this cooperation to yield results that are relevant to the needs of the Pacific developing countries.

(?In this respect), we should remember that the Kuala Lumpur Declaration issued by ASEAN in 1971 introduces the concept of Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality. To achieve this goal, the ASEAN countries have agreed to take their common responsibility to strengthen economic and social stability in the region, to guarantee stability and security free from all forms and manifestations of foreign interference, and to preserve their respective national identity in accordance with the aspirations of ASEAN people. This ASEAN viewpoint should be heeded in development cooperation among the developing countries in the Pacific region.

INDONESIA

TEAM GOING TO NEW CALEDONIA TO HELP NATIONALS

BK310926 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0500 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] The Indonesian Government will send officials to New Caledonia to advise the Indonesian community there on how to cope with political developments in that country. There are some 5,000 ethnic Indonesians in New Caledonia, with 2,000 of them being Indonesian nationals. Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said this after meeting with President Suharto at the Bina Graha presidential building this morning.

According to Minister Mokhtar, the dispatch of the Indonesian officials to New Caledonia is also aimed at protecting the safety of the Indonesian nationals and ensuring that they will not be affected by political developments there. Besides, it is necessary for Indonesia to express its full support for the New Caledonian people's aspirations for independence. He stressed, however, that the aspirations should be implemented without bloodshed, bearing in mind the interests of all parties. Minister Mokhtar also hopes that the 2,000 Indonesian nationals there will not get involved in the political process of that country.

Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja also reported to President Suharto today on the outcome of the recent meeting between ASEAN senior officials and their Pacific dialogue partners in Jakarta. According to Minister Mokhtar, the cooperation projects proposed by ASEAN were well accepted by the dialogue partners, including a proposal that the projects be located in ASEAN countries. The projects are aimed at developing human resources in the form of training centers.

CSO: 4213/134

INDONESIA

JAKARTA SAYS ELECTRICAL FAULT CAUSED PALACE FIRE

HR011031 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1000 GMT 1 Feb 85

[Text] Colonel (Ari Sudewo), 074 military area commander, has said the fire that razed Surakarta Palace, the residence of the Sunan Pakubuwono XII, was caused by an electrical short circuit. The fire disaster is still under investigation. (Amoro), Radio Republik Indonesia correspondent in Surakarta, reports:

[Begin (Amoro) recording] The residence of Sunan Pakubuwono XII. (Rumah Kaca Sasono Androlino), (Sasono Sewoko), (Sasono Parasetyo), and the southern (Dwisanganti) caught fire at about 2100 on Thursday [1400 GMT 31 January], destroying the existing buildings and antique items. The fire was brought under control at 0330 this morning [2030 GMT 1 February] with the aid of 12 fire engines. The fire at the Surakarta Palace is one of the biggest disasters we have experienced, because the palace is one of our national monuments. The son of the Sunan Pakubuwono XII, CPH Radiprobowo, explained that the fire was caused by an electric short circuit of 110 volts at the (Sasono Parasetyo) building and spread to other buildings. The Surakarta Palace will actually celebrate its 240th anniversary on 17 February of its being moved from Kartosuro in 1745.

The 074 military area commander, Colonel (Ari Sudewo), told Radio Republik Indonesia that the fire at the palace is still under close investigation. [Recorded speech by Colonel (Ari Sudewo) indistinct]

The Diponegoro 7th military region commander, Major General Sugiarto, the Central Java regional police chief, Police Major General Sunaryo, as well as Surakarta regional executive councillors have given directives to the security personnel. In the meantime, Surakarta armed forces units have also cleaned the debris of the razed palace buildings. From 1956 up to now, the Surakarta Palace has experienced four fires, but this one is the biggest. The material losses cannot yet be estimated. That is all from Surakarta. [end recording]

CSO: 4213/134

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

TRADE LINK WITH PRC--A member of parliament has cautioned the government to be fully alert against the possible adverse consequences that will rise domestically, in the event of its concluding a direct trade link with China. Because, the scars left upon the Indonesians due to China's involvement in the G-30-S/PKI [30 September Movement/ Indonesian Communist Party] communist coup attempt in Indonesia are still deeply felt, he said. [sentence as published] MP Rusli Desa, first vice chairman of Commission-I of the house, made the statement in Jakarta, Tuesday, on a possible opening of direct trade between Indonesia and China. He said that he deemed it necessary to call for the government's caution, although he could understand the government's desire for a direct trade link with China, on the consideration that it is a potential market for Indonesian commodities. Moreover, he added, such direct trade has been initiated by Indonesia with the East European bloc countries, such as the Soviet Union and others. And, this is, indeed, in line with the country's independent and active foreign policy. [Excerpt] [Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 16 Jan 85 p 1 BK]

JAPANESE TRADE DELEGATION VISIT--Jakarta, 24 Jan (KYODO)--A Japanese trade mission, led by Chairman Yoshihiro Inayama of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), arrived here Thursday for a five-day visit during which members will meet President Suharto and his economic ministers. Indonesians are expected to urge Japan to provide wider market access for Indonesian products other than oil and natural gas, which account for 60 percent of the country's total exports. They will also call on Japanese firms to invest in Indonesian non-oil industries and promote technology transfers. Inayama's team, which visited Malaysia earlier this week, is due to leave next Monday for Singapore on the last leg of its 10-day swing. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1057 GMT 24 Jan 85 OW]

BOROBUDUR BOMBERS ARRESTED--Indonesian police have arrested two men suspected of planting the bombs that destroyed nine stupas on the famed Borobudur temple on Monday. According to a local daily, SINAR HARAPAN, the suspects were picked up in Magelang near Yogyakarta on Tuesday. They were reportedly trying to escape to East Java. A central Java military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Antono Mardi, who confirmed this, said the authorities were still looking for the third man. He declined to give further details. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 25 Jan 85 BK]

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--President Suharto received credentials from new Japanese Ambassador to Indonesia Toshiaki Muto in Jakarta on 19 January. On the occasion, the ambassador conveyed Emperor Hirohito's greetings to Suharto. [Summary] [Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 85 BK]

PRC STATEMENT ON BANDUNG--China said yesterday it would consider the sending of delegates to Jakarta in April this year. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Mr Ma Yuzhen said: China may give positive consideration to attend the celebration marking the 30th anniversary of the 1955 Bandung conference. [Text] [Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Jan 85 BK]

BOROBUDUR BOMBERS STILL AT-LARGE--Armed Forces Commander General Murdani, who was the last person to report to President Suharto after other ministers at Bina Graha building today, told newsmen that he merely reported to the president on his planned working tour to West Nusatenggara today. During his stay in West Nusatenggara, he will visit two Islamic boarding schools in Bima and Mataram. Questioned by newsmen on the Borobudur bombing incident, General Murdani said he was still unable to expose the background of the incident because up to now the perpetrators have not yet been apprehended. Commenting on the reported arrest of two suspects in Surabaya, he said he had not received further reports whether the suspects were really the bombing perpetrators. [Excerpt] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 28 Jan 85 BK]

EXPLOSION AT JAVA AMMUNITION DUMP--There has been an explosion at an Indonesian Air Force ammunition dump in east Java. A military spokesman said the explosion occurred early yesterday at Madiun, 550 km east of Jakarta. The blast damaged houses and nearby rice fields, but no one was hurt. The incident came just three months after a bigger blast at the Marine Arsenal at Jakarta killed at least 16 people and destroyed hundreds of houses. [Text] [Singapore Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Jan 85 BK]

CSO: 4200/450

LAOS

ROLE, OBSTACLES FOR SMALL BUSINESSMEN VIEWED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 3 Jan 85 p 4

[Article by Kavi C. Kittavorn]

[Text]

VIENTIANE — Doing private business in Laos is tough, but one Laotian entrepreneur, Phinnarat Paengri, has turned the sleepy economy in this young socialist country into a personal triumph.

Phinnarat, 31, recently opened the newest coffee shop cum restaurant in Vientiane on the once busy street of Haeng Boun. His restaurant is called "Ban Thidarath," and on Christmas Day he offered a four-piece rock band which blended nostalgic oldies with the new atmosphere of the "Laotian style socialism." And it was an instant hit. That day alone, he earned about 10,000 kip. It was almost a two-year salary of a worker.

Young and ambitious, he is among the growing number of small entrepreneurs who take advantage of the Laotian government's policy of encouraging small enterprises, especially those engaging in trade and service. "I used to be in a police assembly band, but then I quit and thought of making something profitable out of this economy. I think a place like this was a good choice," he said.

Taking several months to prepare his venture, Phinnarat was able to muster at least one million kip (about 100,000 baht) from his hard won savings and extra money from relatives, most of which went into in-house decorations. He purchased wallpaper and other decorations from Bangkok's major department stores. The one room restaurant, which seats about 25 persons, offer a variety of local and French food. Prices are in kip and according to Phinnarat, government controlled. "Several months before we opened, government officials came here and discussed what price to charge," he said.

In return, the Laotian government will receive 4,000 kip (about 100,000 baht) from Phinnarat's monthly income. During his first five months of his operation, he said he would not expect any profit and government officials agreed that a monthly tax, whose price is arbitrary must be paid. "My place is considered a little bit too expensive for local people. Some government officials, traders and, occasionally, diplomats are our target group; they want a place for getting together."

According to Sulima Bounlert, Deputy Minister of State Planning Committee, at the moment about 60 per cent of small business are privately owned, while the rest are in form of cooperatives and are state-run. Sulima said that these small entrepreneurs were allowed to continue their business on their own virtues and expertise. "These people can also contribute a great deal toward our economy because they are providing necessary services and goods to the society," he said.

Sulima said that after Pathet Laos liberated the whole country big businessmen and the majority of the entrepreneurs fled. While allowing the private sector to prosper, he said, the government still oversees the overall price policy and distribution channel for consumer goods. "In big cities like Vientiane, there are reports of hoarding and price hiking without the government's knowledge."

Although the goal for socialism in Laos is total collectivisation, Sulima said that some flexibility is given regarding small business although, "eventually this segment must belong to cooperative units".

In late 1979, the Laotian government introduced a series of reforms in its economic policy to encourage free movement of people and to create favourable conditions for selling and exchanging of agricultural and handicraft products and other small businesses.

In early open air market, hilltribes and traders show their goods, some with colorful price tags. Hunters and fishermen also have their own catch of the day. One can buy wild-boar, deer and huge fish from the Mekong River, beside plentiful vegetables, fruits and flowers. Even though prices are cheap, some discount is essential to compete in this market place of free-wheeling economy.

The government's encouragement of private enterprises also benefits a group of foreign residents, mostly South Indian and Pakistani, who chose to remain in Laos after the liberation in 1975. They are relatively free to trade, but taxes levied upon them are considerably high. They greatly depend on the border trade between Thailand and Laos, although crossing the border to Nong Khai and other Thai border towns is not as convenient as when the Thai-Laos relations were in their heyday. However, these traders can still make use of their limited permits to travel to Thailand for business. Each trip they bring with them a large quantity of goods, which in turn gives the government a lumpsum revenues.

They also complain about the high tax, sometimes as high as 60-70 per cent. On one hand, they argue, the government supports small private business, but on the other hand it discourages them and puts too much strain on their enterprises.

Besides this industrious group of foreign residents, there is a sector of newly arrived relatives of Vietnamese descent brought in from Ho Chi Minh City or Hanoi to stay in the capital. One Vietnamese lady, who just arrived here recently from Ho Chi Minh said that life in Vientiane is more relaxed and opportunities are greater. She helps her family operate two separate noodle stands, and in one of their shops they also sell antiques which they brought with them from Vietnam.

Despite limitations upon border trade, small businesses still continue as usual through the "middleman", who travels back and forth across the Mekong River taking orders from Laotian consumers between Tha Duea, Nong Khai and Vientiane, which range from three kilogrammes of red clams to size-9 Nike shoes. Russian vodka and Vietnamese cognac topped the year-end orders from the Thai side. Once the goods cross the Mekong River, the price automatically doubles.

It remains to be seen whether the private businesses which operate side by side with state enterprises will gradually disappear as the Laotian leaders have hoped. One thing is obvious though: this will certainly not happen in the near future.

LAOS

REFUGEES ON GOING CONTACTS WITH FAMILIES IN LAOS

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 6 Jan 85 p 19

[Article by Caroline Dewhurst]

[Excerpts]

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Bee Xiong has not been outside Ban Vinai refugee camp since he arrived there three years ago. He told me: "I used to go to school. But now I stay free."

Many of the 44,000 refugees in the camp 'stay free'. There are not enough jobs to go around.

Eighteen-year-old Tong Lor also 'stays free.' He used to work in the camp hospital but now works one day a week teaching children. Even though he appears to have all the time in the world, he still gets up well before dawn every day. "There is so much to do," he says.

The Hmong refugees start waking up at about 5 am. In the early morning they like to play tapes of 'Hmong songs.' This eerie half-chanting, half-singing tells of love and romance, and of the time

when the Hmong were free people in the mountains of Laos.

Tong Lor gets up early to wash his clothes by torchlight. Then he and his family have to clean the one-room house where all four live and sleep, put away the blankets and mosquito nets, sweep the yard, slaughter animals for meat, prepare the vegetables and cook the rice.

Bee Xiong said: "In Laos we used to get up at about 3.30 am. We had to cook the rice so that we could take some lunch with us to school. Then we would walk for two hours to get to school."

Refugees receive a monthly allowance of food, paid for by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. They get 500 grams of rice per day per adult (250 grams for children under nine), 750 grams per month of lean meat, fish, fish sauce, vegetables, chilli peppers, salt, oil and fuel.

CSO: 4200/422

LAOS

ATTACHE SPEAKS ON LAO ARMY DAY

BK221005 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 18 Jan 85

["Statement to Voice of Vietnam Listeners" by Colonel (Sakim Kesonsi), military attache of LPDR Embassy in Vietnam, on occasion of 36th anniversary of founding of LPA on 20 January--date not given--recorded in Lao fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends:

These days, the Lao people of various nationalities are enthusiastically and joyfully making preparations to celebrate the 36th anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Army. For the first time in the history of Laos, the Lao people had their own army fighting for the independence and freedom of the fatherland and for the complete and eternal liberation of the Lao working people. The LPA symbolizes the inheritance and development to a high degree of the traditions of the Lao nation's valiant and indomitable struggle against foreign aggression, which are harmoniously combined with the firm and thorough revolutionary nature of the working class painstakingly fostered by the Indochinese Communist Party formerly and by the LPRP today to become an ideology and feeling guiding the Lao cadres and soldiers in their actions as well as a great source of strength encouraging the entire Lao Army to advance constantly toward successfully fulfilling all the glorious missions of their nation.

The Lao fatherland and the Lao working people of all nationalities have experienced untold hardship and suffering of slavery. A spontaneous struggle did not succeed in spite of great losses in blood and bone. It was not until the Indochinese Communist Party was founded by great President Ho Chi Minh that the revolution in the three countries of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia in general and the Lao revolution in particular correctly adopted strategic lines and revolutionary tactics. Efforts were made to organize and set up powerful political and armed forces to struggle against internal and external enemies, overcome all fierce trials, and build powerful armed forces loyal to the cause of the party and the nation that always remained steadfast under all circumstances and shunned no sacrifices in the persistent struggle for the independence and freedom of the fatherland and for the equality, prosperity, and happiness of the Lao people of all nationalities.

The glorious victory of the Lao Army and people was possible first of all thanks to the correct and clear-sighted leadership of the party, to the spirit of self-reliance and close unity of the Lao people of various nationalities; to the great assistance provided by the socialist countries and progressive forces in the world; to the militant alliance among the armies and peoples of the three fraternal countries of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia; and, particularly, to the pure friendship and close solidarity with the heroic army and people of Vietnam.

Under orders of the Indochinese Communist Party formerly and the CPV today, over past decades, the Vietnamese people have sent their beloved brothers and sons to wholeheartedly assist the Lao revolution. Cadres and soldiers of the Vietnamese volunteer army have always stood shoulder to shoulder with the LPA in the same combat trench to fight and win victories. They have devoted all their talents and energy to greatly contributing toward the building of an ever firmer and stronger Lao Army that has become one of the factors deciding the success of the Lao revolution today.

The Lao Army and people always remember deep in their hearts the lofty sentiments, loyalty, and valiant sacrifices of the Vietnamese volunteers.

At present, Laos is faced with a situation wherein it enjoys peace while having to cope with the schemes and acts of multifaceted sabotage by imperialism working hand in glove with international reaction. Recently, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries sent their troops to invade three hamlets of Sayaboury Province in northern Laos. The Thai authorities must bear full responsibility for this violation of international law.

The LPA always remains worthy of being a sharp instrument of force of the party. It is always undergoing training and enhancing its nature as a people's army, and is advancing toward standardization and modernization with the aim of fulfilling its duties to protect the fruits of the revolution and build a socialist society in Laos.

Dear comrades and friends, on the occasion of the 36th anniversary founding of the LPA, we would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the armies and peoples of fraternal socialist countries for their wholehearted support and assistance for the revolutionary struggle of Laos. We express our deep gratitude toward the army and people of the USSR for having accorded great and effective assistance in all respects to Laos during the struggle for national salvation as well as during the present course of defending and building socialist Laos. We would like to extend our profound gratitude to the heroic Vietnamese Army and people--our faithful, exemplary, and pure militant solidarity friends--and wish them new successes in their cause of national construction and defense.

We are convinced that under the talented leadership of the CPV and with the invincible strength of the solidarity bloc of the entire army and people coupled with their own traditions and creativity, the heroic Vietnamese Army will surely defeat all the schemes and acts conducted by the expansionist enemy in collusion with imperialism, no matter on what scale and from which direction.

MALAYSIA

VOPM ANALYZES SINGAPORE'S DECEMBER ELECTION

BK250911 Voice of the People of Malaysia (Clandestine) in Malay 1230 GMT
22, 24 Jan 85

[22 Jan 85]

[Part one of "News Commentary": "General Election in Singapore"]

[Summary] A general election was held in Singapore on 22 December 1984 during which 130 candidates from the ruling People's Action Party (PAP), eight opposition parties and independent candidates vied for 79 seats. Earlier, 30 PAP candidates, including Lee Kuan Yew, were returned unopposed on nomination day.

"The outcome of this election went beyond Lee Kuan Yew's expectations because PAP lost two seats to the secretary general of the Singapore Democratic Party, Chiam See Tong; and to the secretary general of the Workers' Party, J. B. Jeyaretnam, who, respectively, won the Potong Pasir and Anson constituencies. This victory thwarted PAP clean sweep of all seats, as happened in several earlier elections."

In several constituencies, the number of votes received by the competing non-PAP candidates is running very close to that of the PAP candidates, with PAP being able to only squeak by. It can be recalled that PAP made a clean sweep of parliamentary seats in the 1968, 1972, 1976, and 1980 elections. Only in 1981 was Jeyaretnam able to win his parliamentary seat in a by-election at Anson constituency.

What startled Lee Kuan Yew more was that PAP had lost 12.61 percent of the total vote compared to the 1980 general election. On the contrary, the total vote gained by seven opposition parties had increased from 7 to 16 percent over 1980. The number of spoiled ballots in this election was much larger than in the three previous elections. In the 49 constituencies, there were 26,784 spoiled ballots, with the highest number for a single constituency being 944 and the lowest, 277.

"A visiting Malaysian parliamentary delegation was also shocked at the phenomenon because Singapore is a country with a high level of cultural sophistication. There was no doubt that the election results constituted a silent resistance by Singapore's electorate against the Lee Kuan Yew regime."

Shortly after the election results were announced, Lee Kuan Yew angrily criticized the Singapore electorate, saying that although the results showed a highly sophisticated electorate that still wanted a PAP government, at the same time they also used their votes to pressure the government. Lee Kuan Yew also hurriedly declared that the PAP will terminate its welfare services in the two constituencies captured by opposition parties. He also proclaimed loudly that he will amend Singapore's constitution on the one-man-one-vote election system so that the unfavorable situation for PAP can be remedied. This showed clearly his true nature as a traitor and dictator.

In this election, the so-called PAP regeneration process reached its peak by fielding 26 new candidates, while 19 parliamentarians--consisting of cabinet ministers, parliamentary secretaries, and PAP old guards--withdrew their candidacy. In fact, the so-called regeneration process was nothing but Lee Kuan Yew's tactic of eliminating old colleagues who did not see eye-to-eye with him. Many of the PAP's old guards were very dissatisfied with him, but dared not criticize him. Only a few old guards, like Toh Ching Chye and others, dared to criticize Lee Kuan Yew's dictatorial policies. A few months before the election, in his capacity as PAP chairman, Ong Teng Cheong instructed old cadres not to criticize younger cadres.

Bureaucratic practices are now running more and more rampant in the country, while the gap between the government and the people grows deeper and deeper. Routine visits by ministers to their constituencies have been transformed into massive celebrations with people's aspirations being drowned by the sound of music and felicitations. The so-called elite PAP members, considered as Lee Kuan Yew's darlings, acted arrogantly and never wanted to listen to dissenting views.

"The Ministry of Education's recent decision to dismiss a number of college lecturers was typical and made many PAP supporters believe they had supported the wrong party and feel highly dissatisfied."

Lee Kuan Yew has racked his brains to implement the reactionary theories of eugenics. Besides using persuasion, he has also used legislative means to interfere with college students' choice of partners. To children of graduate mothers he has bestowed the privilege of being enrolled in elite schools and colleges. He has also encouraged graduate mothers to have more children and has even given tax relief to these women giving birth to three or four children. On the other hand, he has instructed poorly educated women not to have many children. Besides increasing maternity fees for these women, he has also encouraged them to undergo sterilization. Sterilized mothers under 30 will receive 10,000 ringgit after delivering their first or second child if the couples' monthly income is less than 1,500 ringgit. These moves constitute glaring policies of discrimination against the vast masses from medium and low classes, policies aimed at widening the gap among the social classes.

In June last year, Lee Kuan Yew initiated a new tactic aimed at ensuring a clean sweep in this general election. Through a constitutional amendment, he granted three to six nonconstituency parliamentary seats to opposition parties. These nonconstituency parliamentarians have no right to vote on constitutional amendments, constitutional draft bills, and finance bills. But

the new ruling will not be implemented if opposition parties capture more than three parliamentary seats. This tactic was clearly aimed at reducing the people's dissatisfaction with the cruel PAP dictatorship."

However, opposition parties and the majority of the people are aware of Lee Kuan Yew's tactics and they all ridicule it. The election results have shown that the regime's tactics cannot bring any benefit because, contrary to what Lee Kuan Yew thinks, Singapore's people are neither stupid nor easily fooled.

Lee Kuan Yew also forced the merger of two major newspaper groups in Singapore in order to monopolize and control the dissemination of public information. This move startled the public, in general, and the cultural circles, in particular. Public opinion in the country and abroad vocally criticized the merger and described existing newspapers as PAP mouthpieces.

"Besides, Lee Kuan Yew also hinted that he will run for president after his resignation in 1988. To ensure that no future government will misuse Singapore's foreign reserves of \$9.3 billion to win the public hearts, he proposed another constitutional amendment for after this election. The current presidential election system will be amended such that an elected president having vast experience in controlling the cabinet will be empowered to veto the state's draft budget. Soon afterwards, Rajaratnam and his lackeys began clamoring that Lee Kuan Yew was the best presidential candidate; and Lee Kuan Yew did not rule out this possibility. In an interview granted to foreign journalists, Lee Kuan Yew openly said that his eldest son, Lee Hsien Loong, has the ability to assume the prime minister post.

"As such, the 32-year-old man, who recently resigned from military service to enter politics just before the election, has become the most likely candidate for the premiership. Indeed, it is Lee Kuan Yew's subtle plan to create a father-as-president-son-as-prime-minister rule. It was not surprising that foreign periodicals and regional newspapers ruthlessly accused Lee Kuan Yew of paving the way for a Lee dynasty."

Unable to control their indignation on hearing Lee Kuan Yew's boasts, newspapers in our country jointly criticized him. Some even attacked him relentlessly, suggesting that the general election be annulled if voters are not allowed to vote for the opposition parties.

"Those who know a little bit about Singapore's society will realize that under the Lee Kuan Yew regime, there are no such things as freedom of speech, publication, and assembly. Workers have lost their rights to strike. During the past 2-3 years, the regime has acted more harshly, implementing several new acts to oppress democracy and the people—even telling people what to do in ordinary affairs, such as in romance, marriage, and childbirth. A former PAP leader, Toh Chin Chye, once pointed out correctly that Singapore's people are considered by the regime as little children in a kindergarten."

More and more Singapore people are now sick of the suffocating political conditions imposed on them by the iron-hand regime. Under a policy that glorifies the English language, national education has been ruined by the regime. Beginning in 1987, the remaining Chinese primary schools will no longer exist in Singapore, while English language schools will prevail on this small island.

"As such, in 20 years a government of men with yellow complexion and black hair, acting more wisely than the British, has achieved what their British colonial masters could not in more than 100 years."

The sharp decline in the total vote and the loss of two parliamentary seats during the election were also attributed to Lee Kuan Yew's overconfidence. Before the election, the PAP did not issue a political manifesto, thinking--erroneously--that the people would certainly vote for it since the PAP had always made clean sweeps of earlier elections. But these victories are closely related to the regime's threats and deceptions. If it had not leaned on the state's powerful armed forces in denying basic democratic rights to the opposition parties, in harassing opposition candidates and disrupting their campaign rallies, and in carrying out all kinds of activities to influence the voters, the election results would have startled Lee Kuan Yew even more.

"The loss of two seats to the opposition parties has greatly saddened Lee Kuan Yew to the extent that he raised a hue and cry that he would amend the one-man-one-vote election system, which in fact exists in name only. In a congratulatory speech to the two opposition parties for their victories, the secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, (Phan Yoo Seh), pointed out that the opposition parties, which obtained 37 percent of the total vote, only managed to win 2.5 percent of the total parliamentary seats. On average, the opposition parties should have won at least 20 parliamentary seats."

[24 Jan 85]

[Second and concluding part of "News Commentary"; "General Election in Singapore"]

[Summary] This general election in Singapore indeed had a special importance not in the sense that the People's Action Party (PAP) could continue its rule or implement its regeneration process on a massive scale, but, in the words of Lee Kuan Yew himself, from the fact that it was a watershed in Singapore's political development. It was also the beginning of PAP's decline.

"Everybody knows that the successes achieved by Singapore and endless flattery by multinational capitalist groups have made Lee Kuan Yew act more and more arrogantly during the past few years. He even considers himself to be the savior of the Singapore people. He has uttered such boastful words more than once."

"On the eve of the general election, Lee Kuan Yew claimed that from 1980 there have been no capable leaders who could assume the country's administration. Should any misfortune happen to Goh Keng Swie, Rajaratnam, and Lee Kuan Yew himself during that time, the Singapore people's lives would experience great change. It is fortunate now that we already have capable second generation leaders."

In the eyes of Lee Kuan Yew, there is no such thing as people. What exist are he himself, his beloved son, and a handful of selected cronies. The perseverance of the Singapore people in their work and other sacrifices they have

made mean nothing to Lee Kuan Yew, who thinks that he and a few other leaders control the people's fate and the country.

During the election, voters enthusiastically voted for opposition parties resulting in the total vote gained by them exceeding those during earlier elections. When Lee Kuan Yew fielded his handpicked candidates, the PAP suffered its lowest total vote since its first election victory in 1968. This not only constituted a slap in the face, but also a rejection of the PAP's reactionary policies.

"The Singapore voters showed their bravery during the election by making their own choice wisely and refusing to be intimidated or influenced. Several months before the election, Lee Kuan Yew repeatedly stressed his intention to make a clean sweep victory and boastfully declared his determination to defeat the Workers Party, which he considers the PAP's main task."

"During the campaign rallies, Lee Kuan Yew pointed out that if the voters gave the wrong signals by voting for opposition parties, foreign capital would withdraw from Singapore and Singapore would suffer. He also said the PAP would discontinue its services to constituencies captured by the opposition. However, the voters were not intimidated by this threat."

Lee Kuan Yew also wrongly assumed that two of his elite second generation leaders, Ng Pock Too and Mah Bow Tan, would be accepted by voters in the constituencies where the opposition parties were strong. However, the voters deliberately wanted to humiliate him, so the two PAP candidates failed miserably.

"The Singapore people informed Lee Kuan Yew clearly at the last election that they are no longer slaves and they want to determine their own future. They are convinced that without Lee Kuan Yew and the PAP, they can still create a better society by exerting their own efforts."

CSO: 4213/126

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

KEDAH CHIEF MINISTER SWORN IN--The state assemblyman for Jitra, Datuk Paduka Haji Osman Aroff, was officially appointed the menteri besar [chief minister] of Kedah by His Royal Highness the Sultan of Kedah today. He received the letter of appointment and took the oath of office in a brief ceremony at the Istana [palace] Anak Bukit near Alor Setar. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Jan 85]

CSO; 4200/456

PHILIPPINES

DAVAO ORIENTAL TOWN CAUGHT BETWEEN NPA, BMA, OTHERS

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 29-30 Dec 84

[29 Dec 84 pp 1, 6]

[Article by Eduardo R. Fernandez]

[Text] The four-year old youngest son of a certain Linda in Lupon, Davao Oriental was crying in great frenzy when he heard the thug-thug-thug of three helicopters hovering at this beleaguered town. Linda, concerned over the hysterical state of her youngest son, told this writer that her son's reactions were the products of the gunbattle between military troopers and the NPA guerillas during the latter's attack at the constabulary barrack late last November.

"Basta makadungog siya ug buto-buto mokurog gyod dayon siya". (Everytime Linda's youngest son hears staccato of gunfire, he shudders in fear), Linda explained as tears trickled down from her sunken eyes so concern over the plight of her son.

"We have to play safe here. We do not know where to turn to. If this will continue, we do not know what future is stored for us.", said a certain Romy when asked to comment on the threats that Lupon will be burned anytime this season of Christmas. Romy cannot even pinpoint who the letter-senders are. Maybe the NPA because they want to avenge the death of their four comrades during the gunbattle which lasted for an hour during their attack at the constabulary barracks last November. Others would suspect that they (the letter-senders) are the BMA, who according to most Lupon residents, are extorting money from the people. Some would still suspect that the threats to burn Lupon down to ashes are simply political maneuvers of those who have vested interests in the political life of Lupon and the entire Davao Oriental. But whatever the reasons there are, Lupon folks want an end to this terrifying threats to their lives.

What really happened why it came this way?

Lupon is not the same after the New People's Army (NPA) attacked the town last November right after the last strike that paralyzed Davao. Lupon folks' peaceful and routinary activities were shattered when staccato of gunfire were

heard emanating from the Municipal bulding at around 11:45 in the morning of November 25, Sunday. The NPA guerillas were already positioned strategically in all corners of the town proper and the municipal hall and succeeded in disarming the police stationed in the area. The NPAs, however, failed to take the PC barracks but a battle between the military troopers and the NPA ensued for an hour enough to threaten all the people in Lupon to shiver down their spines.

The NPAs were successful in confiscating arnallites and other guns from the police but not quite successful in the PC barracks. After that, rumors spread that the NPA would mount another attack to avenge the death of their comrades.

Lupon, second only to Mati, capital town of Davao Oriental, in population and in busyness, was practically deserted for two hours during the NPA attack.

[30 Dec 84 pp 1, 8]

[Article by Eduardo R. Fernandez]

[Text] After the NPA attack there were rumors circulating that Lupon public market will be burned down by terrorists of unidentifiable origins. Nobody dared to talk about their origins. Everybody is practically careful about their languages especially when referring to rebel terrorists for fear of their lives' safety.

Lupon, Davao Oriental was once a peaceful and friendly town but with what happened things have virtually changed.

Fr. Medz Salomia, parish priest of Lupon, jokingly greeted his parishioners with a hearty "Merry Tsismas and a Hapa-hapa New Year" in his homily delivered during the Christmas eve mass. His parishioners were caught whether to laugh or to keep quiet. But they did laugh, with such laughter mixed with fear and apprehensions because of the situation Lupon is enmeshed in. They were not so concern about the rumor-mongers thus "Merry Tsismas" (for tsismis) but rather with the "Hapa-hapa New Year" (crawling in their belly this New Year because of another guerilla attack.) God forbid! said one old woman inside the church who seemed to be the most affected by the greetings.

From December 22 to December 25, there was a rumor that all buses plying their route from Davao to Mati passing by Lupon will be burned by either the NPA or the BMA. Students studying in Davao were panicky over this that's why they requested the school administrators to let go of themselves to be home early for their Christmas vacation. Last December 25, the Public market of Lupon was the most "mingaw" in the history of the town. Practically all the residents and businessmen stayed away from the town proper.

The Municipal building in Lupon is heavily guarded by the combined forces of the police and the ICHDF. One can see that every corner and strategic position there are militiamen guarding usually by two's or by three's. The PC barracks is also heavily armed for possible attack by the terrorists.

But what alarmed most townsfolk of Lupon is the proliferation of armies in their vicinities which will, anytime, test their forces by the show of forces. They feared that they will be caught in the crossfire. There are BMA forces roaming around the town of Lupon. There are NPAs. The Police and the Constabulary forces who are always in red alert these days because of threats of attacks by the rebel terrorists. But most of all what terrified Lupon folks are the proliferation of private armies which they believe will just mete out justice by themselves. These "Private Armies" were the object of denunciation by the Davao Oriental Human Rights Movement (DOHRM). The human rights group based in Mati objected the organization of these private armies because these private armies will just invite more chaos and violence in the province.

Something has to be done to this town before its too late. They need actions not words. Lupon is a prosperous town in Davao Oriental. Will it live in terror forever?

CSO: 4200/435

PHILIPPINES

OPPOSITION MP ON DAVAO'S PROBLEMS, ELECTION BETS

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 30 Dec 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Bong S. Dizon]

[Text] Member of Parliament Zafiro Respicio said there will be more troubled cities like the City of Davao as long as Marcos is still in power.

"Marcos' stay in power results to more Davao City throughout the country," Respicio told opposition leaders and some mediamen here as the city's counterpart of the "Convenor's Group" in Manila was formed yesterday evening in a "get-together" occasion.

The city's assemblyman said "Davao City will be a microcosm of the country five years from now."

Respicio released the statement as killings of civilians and militarymen alike remain unabated in the city. Recently, several headless bodies of civilians were found along the highways and streets as more military and para-militarymen felled down with bullets by unknown assassins.

The prevailing peace and order problem has alarmed residents as they talk (not in whisper) their years of "living dangerously in Davao City."

Respicio, who acted as the "unofficial spokesman" of the "Convenor's Group" which is composed of opposition stalwarts from PDP-Laban, MA and UNIDO, said that the oppositionists will meet every month beginning Jan. 26 to draft an alternative program to find solutions to the nagging local and national problems.

The group mulled also to call a sectoral consultations to get the pulse of the people.

The opposition's "get-together" was also attended by, among others, lawyers Silvestre H. Bello III, Dominador Zuno, Jr., Dominador Carrillo, Prospero Nograles, Newton Sancho, and Rey Teves and Soledad Duterte.

The group had decided to visit the political detainees at the PC barracks on Dec. 31. There are about 120 detainees who are languishing inside the

stockade. Among them are Karl Gaspar, Fr. Eduardo Tizon, Juliet de Vera (wife of alleged NPA commander Ben de Vera), and labor leaders Dominador Montero and Joel Maglungsod.

Meanwhile, in a casual conversation, some of the opposition stalwarts said that Tanada-Cory Aquino tandem for the presidential elections in 1987 would be ideal. They pointed out that the two political personalities could immediately unify the seemingly disunited opposition factions in the country.

In the scheduled 1986 local elections, some members of the city's Convenor's Group saw that a Nonoy Garcia-Maskarino team is not a remote possibility in order for a KBL's easy win.

However, the present problems that beset the city may prevent serious candidates from participating in the electoral exercises, Respicio said.

CSO: 4200/435

PHILIPPINES

EDITORIAL ON LAW, ORDER IN DAVAO CITY

HK250919 Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 15 Jan 85 p 2

[Editorial: "The Real Image"]

[Text] Press releases coming from both civil government and military image-builders keep striving to paint a picture of Davao city as more peaceful and orderly than it has been for a long, long time. How we wish it were true. No Davaoeno in his right mind would want the situation to be worse than it already is. On the other hand, the true Davaoeno hopes that those who paint a pretty picture of their city in press releases are not merely whistling in the dark.

As of presstime last night, the 14th day of January, 1985, no less than seventeen persons have been reported shot dead in the city. The shootings have happened at different times of the day and night, and even in such unlikely places as classroom, hospital and home--the time and place does not matter. What matters to those who are out to kill their fellowmen is that the mission is accomplished with a minimum of fanfare.

As long as there are armed persons in our midst who are out to separate men's souls from their bodies--whether with a bullet or a knife or a bludgeoning instrument, so long will the citizenry continue to quake with fear, wondering --"who will be the next victim?"

It is wishful thinking for press release writers to call a spade a diamond, a frightened city a peaceful, orderly city. Let us not be like the stupid ostrich who hides its head in the sand at the first sign of danger, as if by refusing to see danger approach it will simply go away.

Well, we are not ostriches. We are people. The truth may hurt, but who wants untruth?

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

MARCOS ON STRENGTHENING PESO EXCHANGE RATE

HK210818 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 2300 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] The exchange rate of the peso against the dollar during the past few days has benefitted government financial agencies and business firms. According to President Marcos, chances are that the peso rate will remain at 18.002 to the U.S. dollar. This was the peso rate when it was floated on 6 July 1984. The peso's special performance against the dollar reached 18.90 last Thursday and went down to 18.827 the day before yesterday. The president said that, based on a report made by Economics Minister Vicente Valdepenas, the peso continues to gain in strength since it stood at 20 pesos to the U.S. dollar when the rate adjustment was made last October. Valdepenas has denied the claims from some quarters that the strength of the peso is an artificial one. This statement was backed up by Information Minister Gregorio Cendana.

President Marcos also pointed out that the special dollar exchange rate is better than the blackmarket rate and that people have preferred to buy foreign exchange since October of last year from the banks rather than on the black market.

CSO: 4211/30

PHILIPPINES

VER CRITICIZES 'OPPORTUNISTS', PRAISES MARCOS

HK250421 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANO MALAYA in English 20 Jan 85 p 8

[Text] Gen Fabian C. Ver has described some of the country's "economic, political and moral leaders" as "opportunists who are captives of the belief that they can gain from the downfall of the government."

Ver did not identify the leaders he referred to, but said "it is not at all difficult to identify who among our leaders expertly utilized the counter-balancing positive force during the period of our greatest crisis in the recent past."

The Armed Forces chief of staff (on leave), who is celebrating his birthday today, issued the statement in a birthday "asalto" [surprise party] hosted by his fraternity brothers from the University of the Philippines Vanguards, Inc.

Describing the past year as a "sad experience," Ver said the predicament we are in "is not a time for opportunists who wish to rise from our ashes."

This is not a time for weaklings who cringe and shake at the mere mention of economic and political problems," he stressed.

Ver disclosed that there are sectors who would have others believe that the government is on the verge of collapse. This is clearly an "alarmist attitude," he pointed out.

The military, Ver said, operates under a very big handicap. "Every step they (the military) take, every move they make can easily be distorted in the eyes of the general public, as in fact, it has been distorted on many occasions in order to keep them off-balance and ineffective," he said.

He expressed belief, however, that "our officers will not allow themselves to be discouraged by even the most severe propaganda attacks against their honor and integrity."

All talks about the nation's political collapse would come true if the military is discouraged by propaganda attacks, Ver told the UP Vanguards.

In a speech, Ver lauded President Marcos, who, he said, "has ably led the country back to stability and normalcy with his indomitable will and his firm resolve to overcome the crisis."

"We would not have survived if the President had been incapable of meeting the negative forces being brought to bear upon the country," he said.

Ver also reiterated earlier statements that misfits in the military should be punished. "The military organization is no place for social deviants who do not deserve the trust and confidence of our people," he maintained.

Ver also admitted that the government is facing threats from its "enemies." We must not underestimate the "enemy," he said, referring to subversive elements and to the leaders whom he called "opportunists."

Assessing his record in the military service, he said "I have done my best in all the human capacities I can muster... I have given my all in the service of our country, our republic and our people."

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST ON DETAINEES, RULE OF LAW UNDER MARCOS

HK241427 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 24 Jan 85 p 4

["Mu Cup of Tea" Column by Ninez Cacho-Olivares: ; "Whither the Law and Justice?"]

[Text] Mr. Marcos has not ceased talking about the preservation of the nation's democratic institutions. He insists that we have a democracy. He debunks all talk of a one-man rule and makes an extra effort to impress upon the public that his is a caucus government and that his is a government of laws. And yet, certain instances seem to completely disprove his actions and pronouncements. Despite the massive propaganda churned out by his minions, we are still a nation under a one-man rule.

Eight political detainees--Rodolfo Benosa, Manuel Mario D. Guzman, Charlie Palma, Benjamin Ssegundo, Nestor Bodino, Alfredo Mansos, Rolando Salutin and Edwin Tutalian--were among some 20 persons arrested in February and March of 1982. They face charges of subversion. The eight, as of this writing, are still in detention, in spite of a lower court's order for their release, after the usual posting of bail.

Theirs is a strange story. On December 21, 1983, the prosecution recommended their temporary release on the condition that their attendance in court be guaranteed. On March 12, 1984, Brigadier General Fidel Singson, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] deputy chief of staff for intelligence, recommended the release of 11 of the accused. It was said that the basis of the AFP recommendation for their release was the "light nature of their alleged involvement and the length of their detention."

During a hearing on June 25, 1984, the lower court asked the prosecution to comment on the AFP recommendation. The prosecution offered no objections; it favorably endorsed the recommendation and even said that the "granting of bail and the fixing of its amount is a judicial prerogative."

General Fabian Ver, as chief of staff and commander of the Command for the Administration of Detainees, also recommended the release of the 11 accused. Juan Ponce-Enrile, defense chief, was said to have endorsed the Ver recommendation to Marcos.

On December 20, 1984, the trial court ordered the release from military custody of the accused after posting bail bonds of P16,000 each. On December 27, 1984, one Alex Marcelino was freed, after posting the required cash bond.

Early this month, the remaining eight detainees finally got together the required sum to pay for their bail bonds. The money came from loans and donations. Juan Ponce-Enrile recommended their temporary release to Marcos on January 11. Still, the eight remain in military detention.

There do not seem to be any more legal impediments. The military itself has recommended their release. The Office of the Solicitor-General has done the same, the Defense chief has already asked that they be freed. The court ordered them released. It stated: "Considering the evidence so far presented by the prosecution against the accused... and there being no objection on the part of the fiscal, the Court, in the exercise of its discretion, grants the motion for bail of the said accused. The said accused are ordered released from the custody of the military upon their posting of their bail bonds." The bonds have been paid. What more is needed to set the eight free?

In this land of ours, presidential action, not a court order, seems to be the deciding factor. Is this how our democracy works? Is this the way to strengthen democratic institutions? Why do citizens have to go to court if, in the final analysis, everything is still dependent on the action or inaction of one man? Why have courts at all, if their decisions and orders can be ignored? Why speak of democracy, due process and the strengthening of democratic institutions? Why bother to go through the farce of a caucus? Why not speak instead of autocracy--that system of government wherein one man exercises political power without legal constraints and without accountability in the tradition of the autocrats of yesteryears--Stalin, Hitler and Papa Doc Duvalier? Why bother to deodorize an unjust system by calling it a democracy?

It bothers me greatly when men and women must be reduced to begging and pleading for what is rightfully theirs. It upsets me when citizens have to constantly appeal to one man for the release of some prisoners who have, in fact, been ordered released by the courts. Why must people beg and grovel for their liberties? Why must their liberties be dependent on the whims of one man?

The eight who are in detention have no one to turn to. They have friends and families who work day and night, looking for ways and means to have them released. But they can only do so much. If court orders are ignored, if military recommendations are not acted upon, if the liberties of the political prisoners are utterly dependent on Mr Marcos, what more can they, and other citizens, do?

Must they grovel and beg? Must a person be degraded further? Where is that compassionate society that the Marcos drumbeaters talk about incessantly? Where is the justice? How is democracy expected to flourish while the nation continues to exist under an extremely unjust system? Do we have a rule of law or the law of the ruler?

PHILIPPINES

STUDENTS MARCH, BURN MARCOS EFFIGY

HK251610 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Manila, January 25 (AFP)—Thousands of students today marched toward the official residence of President Ferdinand Marcos to honor compatriots killed in clashes with security troopers near the Presidential Palace in 1970.

Some 500 riot policemen, firetrucks and rows of barbed wire barricades blocked the some 2,000 marchers at the foot of Mendiola Bridge, one of the few approaches to downtown Malacanang Palace only 500 meters (yards) away, police said. There were no untoward incidents.

The students, chanting "Marcos, Hitler", and waving red banners and streamers, burned a cardboard effigy representing Mr Marcos and the United States' "Uncle Sam" at the foot of the bridge before dispersing peacefully three hours later.

The march was set "to honor the heroes of the First Quarter Storm (FGS)," a student leader told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. The "FGS" is the popular term used by historians to refer to the spate of massive street demonstrations in Metro Manila in early 1970.

Four students died at Mendiola Bridge in clashes with security troopers in January 1970. In 1983, at least 11 more protesters were killed in a similar riot near the bridge, which has become a symbol of confrontation between students and the military.

Manila Police Chief Brigadier General Narciso Cabrere told reporters at the rally that he would file court charges against the march leaders "for violation of a city ordinance requiring permits for demonstrations, and for obstructing traffic."

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

GOVERNMENT TO ASK FOR \$2.2 BILLION IN NEW LOANS

HK260052 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] The Philippines will ask foreign creditor governments to disburse \$2.2 billion in new loans within the year, during the International Monetary Fund-World Bank consultative meeting scheduled for January 29, BUSINESS DAY sources in government said.

Prime Minister Cesar Virata together with Economic Planning Minister Vicente Valdepenas Jr. and Trade and Industry Minister Roberto V. Ongpin are scheduled to leave today for the Consultative Group meeting. They will try to talk with representatives of individual major donor countries before the consultative meeting starts, to assure that the \$2.2 billion will be extended, the sources said.

Virata has said the problem with the new loan commitments made during previous Consultative Group meetings is that the loans are actually disbursed over a few years. The sources said the request will be for the \$2.2 billion--bigger than the \$1.2 billion committed by the donor countries in 1983 and 1984--to be disbursed within this year.

That need arises from the terms for the \$925-million new loan and the \$3-billion revolving trade facility negotiated with foreign commercial banks. The terms specify that the "net new money from official sources aggregating \$2.2 billion (must be) available for disbursement to the Philippines in 1985" before the commercial loan and the trade facility will be given.

The terms also provide that the IMF managing director Jacques de Larosiere must confirm by telex to the 483 creditor banks that the official creditors have firm commitments to give \$2.2 billion in new loans within the year.

Official creditors are the governments and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

So far the World Bank has told the government that it expects to disburse \$500 million in new loans to the country, and Japanese officials in Manila estimate that Japan's new loans to the country this year will amount to \$250 million. With the IMF's disbursements projected at \$120 million within the year, the official commitments would total \$870 million so far.

However, the international institutions and the Japanese government have not officially informed the IMF that they have committed to extend these amounts within the year.

Sources in government said that what would be critical at this time is a commitment of the United States government. So far, U.S. officials have publicly stated that Washington will support the Philippine economic program, but no public statements aso far have been made regarding the amount of new loans the U.S. government will give in the form of official credits within the year.

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

MARCOS MEETING WITH MAJOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS

HK251455 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 25 Jan 85 pp 1, 13

[Text] President Marcos will evaluate the progress of various government projects, particularly in infrastructure, agriculture, education, and social services, with members of his Cabinet and top military officials during a conference in Malacanang today.

During the conference, the members of the Cabinet and the military are expected to submit progress reports on the on-going projects and pinpoint areas requiring priority attention in the release of funds.

Participating in the conference are Agriculture and Food Minister Salvador Escudero II, Public Works and Highways Minister Jesus Hipolito, Education and Culture Minister Jaime C. Laya, Social Services and Development Minister Sylvia Montes, Deputy Human Settlements Minister Jose Conrado Benitez, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, Budget Minister Manuel Alba, Chairman Francisco Tantuico of the [words illegible] chief of staff Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, and the chiefs of the Regional Unified Commands of the AFP.

In his conference with the chiefs of the AFP regional commands, the President said he expects an updated report on the progress of their own programs such as the various civic action and livelihood projects, and the infrastructure work of the engineering brigades, such as construction of roads and bridges.

The President said that with the economic recovery program in full swing, the cooperation of all sectors, civilian and military, is necessary in order that the people will be able to share in economic benefits due them.

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

NPA INTENSIFIES DRIVE IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

HK260047 Manila METRO MANILA TIMES in English 25 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Dumaguete City—The New People's Army (NPA) has intensified its anti-government drive in Negros Oriental, according to Lt Col Cesar Garcia, constabulary provincial commander.

In a briefing with Governor Lorenzo Teves, 22 mayors and barangay captains, Col Garcia said seized NPA documents revealed that an NPA hit squad known as "Raa" has moved to Hinoba-an, Pamplona, and Siaton towns.

The 15 heavily-armed hit squad used to be led by slain Rogelio Sabelo, alias Commander Yangle. He was killed last Friday in a clash with a PC-POLICE patrol in Barangay Mantiquil, Siaton.

Col Garcia said documents captured in that encounter revealed the "Raul" squad was the third group of terrorists operating in Negros Oriental.

Because of the NPA's presence, Garcia has recommended to Lt Col Fidel V. Ramos, acting AFP chief of staff, that the present military force of four PC companies be doubled.

Garcia also said Negros Oriental needed 531 policemen and guns.

He noted that the NPA last year initiated 22 anti-government demonstrations and rallies. In these protest mass actions, they demanded the pullout of military detachments in the mountainous areas of Canlaon City and Bagay town.

He also called on Barangay captains to be more vigilant.

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

COMMENTARY ON AQUINO CASE INDICTMENTS

HK241040 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] We hear that the arrests are ready for all those charged with the double murder of Aquino and Galman, filed by the Tanodbayan [ombudsman] for the Sandiganbayan [civil court to try military cases]. All we have to wait for is when these people will be arrested and in which jail they will be put. Above all, we wonder how long it will take for the Sandiganbayan to finally resolve this case. Who will be jailed, who will be discharged from service, who will be punished, and who will be let off? We wonder if any of those indicted are completely innocent.

General Ver says he is prepared. Of course, he would say that, after all, he has friends in high places.

Still and all, we are very pleased with these results and we can have hope once again that justice will prevail.

There has also been a statement from General Prospero Olivas. We should not give up hope over this Aquino-Galman case. We have Judge Pamaran, the hanging judge, who will try this case. Our faith rests in him. Let us be steadfast in our trust in Judge Pamaran. We wonder whom Judge Pamaran will hang.

CSO: 4211/30

PHILIPPINES

PLANTERS LEVEL GRAFT CHARGES AT SUGAR AGENCIES

HK250653 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 19 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Sugarcane planters and millers not only in Western Visayas but also throughout the country are anxious and determined to testify before the Batasan foreign trade subcommittee to confirm charges of graft, corruption, and other irregularities which caused them losses of P [Philippines Peso] 11.6 to P14.4 billion since 1974.

This was stated yesterday by Members of Parliament Fermin Z. Caram, Jr., Wilson P. Gamboa, Marcelo B. Fernan, Sr., Hernando B. Fernan, Sr., Hernando B. Perez, Authur D. Defensor, and Rafael L. Lazatin, who debunked reports that sugar producers are laughing off the Batasan inquiry.

The assemblymen said "most sugarcane planters and millers confirm the charges originally hurled in the August 28 privilege speech of MP Caram that the Philippine Sugar Commission (Philsucom), the National Sugar Trading Corp. (Nasutra), and its predecessor, the defunct Philippine Exchange Co. (Philex) "have grossly mismanaged the dying P50-billion sugar industry."

Caram charged that these three agencies had "ruthlessly commandeered production, monopolized trading, and massacred the industry through shameless graft, corruption, and other irregularities whose magnitude surpasses the wildest calculations.

"Don Manuel Elizalde himself, as president of the Philippine Sugar Association, and one of the most respected business leaders of the country, was quoted that he has never seen throughout his 50 years with the sugar industry, "a crisis of this magnitude, affecting not only 35,000 sugar planters big and small, but also some three million people directly dependent on the industry," Caram said.

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

EDITORIAL ON ENDING COCONUT MONOPOLY

HK250650 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 22 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: UNICOM Finally Disbanded"]

[Text] They called it "rationalization" to make it more palatable, in an attempt to "gild the lily and perfume the rose." But in fact and in truth, it was nothing else but a monopoly.

Because of the monopoly enjoyed by a special group of favored people, buying prices of coconut were fixed, coconut buyers were controlled, the milling of coconuts into coconut oil was limited, and the exportation of the oil was done by only one blessed group--the United Coconut Oil Mills, Inc. or UNICOM.

It is the general belief that for daring to fight the monopoly, former Vice-President Emmanuel Pelaez was nearly assassinated by a group which acted with military precision, armed with automatic weapons which the military is equipped with. It was only a miracle that saved Pelaez's life.

There is also some suspicion that the late NPD police Gen. Tomas B. Karingal, whose well-coordinated murder in a public place has not been satisfactorily explained until now, was also killed after he was getting near to the solution of the Pelaez assassination attempt. For Karingal, to whom Pelaez had directed his famous question ("What is our country coming to, General?"), had been reported hot on the trail of the Pelaez ambushers.

But to go back to the UNICOM, this giant business octopus has at last been dissolved. On the say-so of the International Monetary Fund, President Marcos a few days ago issued PD 1960 authorizing all the country's oil mills to export, on their own, their produce. Thus, the six-year-old monopoly granted to the UNICOM has finally been dismantled--in the same happy fashion that the machinery of dictatorship is slowly being torn apart, piece by piece.

With the coconut monopoly gone, the country's No. 1 dollar earner will now be guided by the rule of free enterprise. Everybody will now have the right to engage in all aspects of the industry--buying, selling, copra-making, milling, exporting and speculating. The belief is widespread that under this free enterprise system, governed by the law of supply and demand, farmers will get a fairer price. So with all other segments of the coconut industry.

And of utmost importance, there is hope that with deregulation, the consumers, the 50 million Filipinos who need the product everyday in the form of cooking oil, soap, animal feed and "gata," will be able to buy these products at lower prices.

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST ASKS IF COCONUT MONOPOLY REALLY ENDED

HK260928 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Jan 85 p 4

["Here and Now" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "Appearance or Reality?"]

[Excerpt] President Marcos has finally bowed down to pressure and issued a decree dismantling the coconut monopoly under UNICOM. [United Coconut Oil Mills].

With understandable sorrow, Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco, UNICOM chief, said it should give critics of the monopoly an opportunity to try out alternative systems. What is bad news for COJUANGCO, however, has been received with jubilation by those who had long battled for UNICOM's abolition.

But does PD 1960 really end the monopoly, or does it merely allow it to go underground? Is appearance the reality? This is the question troubling not a few in the coconut industry.

Under the decree, coconut farmers, copra buyers, millers, refiners, and exporters are encouraged to form appropriate cooperatives and associations to achieve economies of scale, avoid ruinous competition, maximize foreign exchange earnings, and ensure a just share of the proceeds from export and domestic sales to the farmers.

Will this not, affected parties ask, result in mini-UNICOMs run by the same elements belonging to the dismantled monopoly?

While committed to the free market, the decree, interestingly enough, carries a ban on the setting up of new copra crushing and refining facilities, while there is said to exist an excess crushing and refining capacity. Should the situation later change, however, oil millers and refiners under the old UNICOM setup shall have the first priority. In the meantime, oil millers and refiners who desire to service the world market are required by the decree to absorb UNICOM's obligations, pro-rate.

All those taking part in the structural economic adjustment program are exempt from the payment of any and all taxes, fees, imposts, charges of whatever nature which may be incurred as a result of the program.

Curiously enough, the depressed local coconut oil prices (P5 perkilo), which have no sensible relation to the prevailing world prices (37-37.5 cents per pound, CIF), are seen by some independent millers and refiners, correctly or incorrectly, as an indication that the local market is probably being manipulated to favor the entry of those identified with the monopoly in positions of control into the cooperatives and associations that are to be organized.

One could be completely paranoid about it, but more and more vigilance is needed to make sure that the nation does not continue to be deceived by false appearances or deceitful propaganda. This happens everyday, and it should not happen in so crucial an area.

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

THREATENED 28 JANUARY 1985 STRIKES FAIL TO GAIN SUPPORT

HK280541 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The flow of traffic in metro Manila is normal as buses and jeepneys continue to ply their routes as of broadcast time. At the same time, government vehicles are on standby to serve commuters just in case some drivers push through their plans to paralyze transportation in the metropolis. The strike was earlier called by the Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations [ACTO]. MMC [Metro Manila Commission] traffic operations director Antonio Viceno tells us of the normal flow of traffic.

[Begin recording] [words indistinct] of public utility vehicles are running and are keeping on their routes to serve commuters and passengers. We are in the areas adversely affected [words indistinct] has been the route from Marikina, Barangka to Cubao and Del Monte to Blumentritt as well as Bonifacio to Monumento. But in these cases, we've been able to send [words indistinct] rescue coming from the pool of the vice governor. [end recording]

Aside from ACTO, seven other groups earlier said that they will join the strike. However the leader of another jeepney operators and drivers group said that they are not joining the strike. Romy Maranan, president of the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines has this to say:

[Begin recording] The decision of the federation not to join this strike is final. We are not joining any strike as of today. I want to make it clear that the federation is not included and will not join the strike for today. That is our final decision.

Now we have many reports on [words indistinct] with regards to the situation at present. According to the information given by some of my local presidents, in their areas in Balikbalik there are some students coercing jeepney drivers to stop and to join the strike. Actually the Police Station No 4 responded and caught these students, some who were in possession of pillboxes, and I think now they are detained at that station. And in other places we found out that some students are the ones asking the drivers to stop or to join the strike. [end recording]

In Cebu City the transport strike did not materialize. The seventh regional unified command said all jeepneys and buses are plying their routes with hardly any indication of a strike. Military authorities are congratulating Cebuanos for heeding their better judgment and not supporting the plan to cripple transportation on that central Philippine island.

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

DAVAO DEL NORTE FARMS HIT BY RAT INFESTATION

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 28 Dec 84 pp 1, 6

[Article by Jimmy K. Laking]

[Text] Don't look now but if plans will push through, mayors of Davao del Norte will be buying rats by the thousands.

"The idea," Davao del Norte assemblyman (KBL) Rogelio Sarmiento informed Agriculture and Food Minister Salvador Escudero of the Batasang Pambansa, "is to eradicate this pest (rats) that continues to be a head-ache to farmers of Davao del Norte and other provinces."

Sarmiento said the presence of rats (locally known as Ilaga) is one of the reasons why rice and corn production in the province has been substantially reduced the past few years.

The exodus of farmers to gold panning and small-scale mining has also contributed to a lesser farm output in the province, he said.

The assemblyman said that because of heavy rat infestation in the province, many farmers have given up rice and corn planting. "What compounds the situation is that current anti-rat methods have proven ineffective while chemicals needed to contain the pest are not enough," Sarmiento added.

He said that buying of rats has been proven effective in the past where farmers are paid in the form of seedlings, fertilizers or pesticides for the rats they caught.

Even as this developed, Sarmiento advised the Agriculture and Food ministry not to pursue the collection of Masagana loan given to farmers previously.

"I feel it would be futile since most farmers are heavily indebted," Sarmiento pointed out, adding that the drought that ravaged Mindanao last year practically wiped out most farmers.

He said the government "will just find itself spending a lot of money trying to collect loans which cannot be paid for anyway by these farmers."

He said, however, that farmers can pay off their debts in terms of rats. To facilitate this move, Sarmiento proposed cooperation from local officials and banking institution to institute the plan.

PHILIPPINES

LULL IN KILLING FOLLOWS DAVAO POLICE COMMAND RESHUFFLE

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 30 Dec 84 pp 1, 6

[Text] Col. Laudemer Kahulugan, who assumed as head of Davao City's Metropolitan District Command (Metrodiscom) barely two weeks ago, has already accounted for fifteen members of a notorious hold-up gang which has been victimizing city residents during the last several months, the City Press Office bared today.

There has also been a noticeable lull in the killing of policemen, civilian home defense force (CHDF) members and military personnel since Col. Kahulugan assumed his post here.

"We have been working round-the-clock." was the terse statement of the veteran Huk-fighter when asked by mediamen for his formula in keeping the peace in this often violence-prone city.

Col. Kahulugan was provincial PC Commander of Davao del Sur before he was shifted to Davao City, replacing Col. Geronimo Valderrama who was also transferred to Davao del Norte.

Col. Kahulugan had a colorful and controversial stint in Davao del Sur, but generally he was credited with stopping the tide of insurgency in that province with his no-nonsense peace and order drive.

When asked whether he will also succeed in Davao City, he said that we would let results speak rather than words. But Kahulugan stressed the need for all-out cooperation between the military, the local government and the civilian populace. "I need everyone's support", he said, "I will do my best, but the military cannot do it alone--let's work together to make Davao City peaceful and safe for everybody".

Col. Kahulugan bared that his priority is to run after criminal elements who prey on the citizenry, taking advantage of the insurgency problem often by posing as "rebels" in their extortion, robbery and hold-up activities.

It was learned that the holdup gang busted this week was led by a military junior officer who went AWOL (absent without leave) who was apprehended just after standing as sponsor during a baptism in a local church. Most of his henchmen including former military men, have also been rounded up.

Col. Kahulugan personally led his raiding team in apprehending the hold-up gang members. "I want to make Davao City safe criminals and terrorists," he pointed out, hinting that this is probably the reason why he got his latest assignment here.

CSO: 4200/135

PHILIPPINES

REPORTAGE ON 23 JANUARY 85 TRANSPORTATION STRIKE

Results in Arrests, Violence

HK281024 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 1000 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Thirty-four students and jeepney drivers were arrested today in connection with the transport strike by members of the Alliance of Concerned Transport Operators [ACTO]. Twenty-one persons were arrested in Manila. Two hundred students formed a human barricade at Recto and Lepanto Streets before 0800 this morning and some of them were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. One student, Eric Maylanao, was arrested after four home-made bombs were found in his possession. Among those arrested were jeepney drivers Ronnie Enriquez, Eric Domingo, Juanito Pabuna, Roberto Manpanco and Ponciano Resuene, a student.

Meanwhile a bus was burned in Yondo at Recto Avenue and Asuncion Street after an unknown man lobbed a bomb onto it.

The Western Police District said that 70 percent of Manila's jeepneys at present are plying their routes. They said that up to noon today the situation was normal.

Mobile police teams were fielded at strategic places in Manila since 4 am today. Another report was received that barricades had been set up this morning Cubao. Meanwhile, traffic in San Juan, Pasig, and Caloocan is normal.

University Student Statement

HK291041 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Statement on the jeepney strike made by Ateneo University Association for Justice, law school members, Society of Ateneo Students, Society for Christ and the Mother Country, PDP LABAN Ateneo Chapter, Task Force Ninoy--read in English]

[Text] True to form, the Marcos regime again unleashed its military apparatus against the Filipino people yesterday when the police forces used teargas bombs and truncheons to disperse strikers, sympathizers, and even innocent

lynchings. We condemn the brutal abuse and the indiscriminate arrests as reflective of the uncompromising and intransigent attitude of the government towards legitimate protests of the many exploited sectors of our society today. We believe that the ACTO [Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations] demand will redound to the benefit of the Filipino nation as a whole and will alleviate the misery of the people in the midst of the present economic [sentence incomplete].

We demand the immediate release of those arrested in connection with the strike. Instead of stifling people's dissent by force, the regime should realize [words indistinct] citizens' participation in government policymaking, the people will seek alternative means [words indistinct] for the redress of their grievances. We are convinced of the legitimacy of the nationwide strike as a means for pressing the jeepney drivers' demands.

We call on all freedom-loving Filipinos to actively support the nationwide strike and similar mass actions in the future. Let us continue the struggle against the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship [words indistinct] strike discovers justice, freedom, and true democracy in our society.

CSO. 4211/31

PHILIPPINES

REPORTAGE ON MINDANAO REBEL CLASHES 29-30 DEC 84

Nine Barangays 'No Man's Land'

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 29 Dec 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] BUTUAN CITY (MINS)--At least nine barangays in Agusan provinces have been declared "no man's land" by the military as part of an intensified military operations to flush out the New People's Army and its sympathizers.

This was disclosed by some evacuees to the Media-Mindanao News Service.

Sources who requested anonymity said that the barrios affected are: Taglibas, San Agustin, Sagboco and San Vicente in Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte; and Taganahaw, Mahagkot, Bentahan and Esperanza in Agusan del Sur.

Reportedly, the military under a certain Capt. Alajan of the 23rd IB/PA (company B) has employed the so-called Bolo Battalion 70 (BB70) to enforce its regulations on the residents.

Since December 4, the military imposed on the people in the areas certain regulations which are violations of human rights.

The farmers are allowed provisions only for lunch whenever they go to the farms to till the soil. This is an effort to cut off farmers' support to the New People's Army.

The residents were also told to keep the doors and windows of their homes open in order for the militarymen to monitor the movements inside the houses.

The presence of BB70 which is reported to be composed of "fanatic" followers has caused fear and terror in the areas.

BB70 is believed to be led by a certain Kumander Alejandro Maglasang, a former CHDF member. He works with Papa Palong, sources said, who is a member of the Knights of Rizal Agricultural Endeavor (KRAE).

Five Killed in Crossfire

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 29 Dec 84 pp 1, 6

[Article by Dol Onez]

[Text] Five civilian residents, including a one year old baby girl were killed by stray bullets when combined government troopers engaged in a heavy firefight with a group of armed men said to be guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA) at Sitio Crossing Logdeck, Barangay Mabini, Manay, Davao Oriental, 4:35 p.m. last Friday.

Belated report sent to Lt. Col. Carlos F. Pena, Davao Oriental PC/INP Commander from the 205th Controlling Team of the Army Airborne identified the civilian victims as Encarnacion Cadangdang y Ongcay, 43, married, her one year old infant named Mary-Ann, Nena Cadangdang y Llanos, 32, married; Rogelio Mamon-tayao y Manlucob, 22, single, farmer and Leopoldo Diabakid, 25, single, farmer all residents of Sitio Crossing Logdeck, Mabini, that town.

The report said that a combined team of TA/INP/ICHDF led by Army Corporal Edgar Santiago were on combat patrol at Sitio Crossing Logdeck and other Sitios of barangay Mabini when they chanced upon the armed group. A brief skirmish ensued after which the enemy withdrew towards Sitio Magangit, Barangay Calingag in Caraga town bringing along their wounded comrades.

The five civilian victims were believed hit by stray bullets during the ensuing firefight between the two forces. The armed men the report said, took cover inside the houses of the victims.

Bodies of the victims were properly turned-over to their respective families and relatives.

As this developed, a PC/INP posse led by Sgt. Felix Lat of the 438th PC Company in Lupon and P/Sgt. Rodolfo Brillantes, INP station commander of Gov. Generoso engaged in a heavy firefight with some 21 fully armed men identified as members of the Bangsa Moro Army (BMA) at Sitio Bajada, Barangay La Union, San Isidro, 11:15 a.m. last Friday.

The government troopers were on routine combat operations in La Union when they were waylaid by the BMA elements led by Commander Cadjala Agga.

The military operations were made following civilian report of armed BMA men allegedly harassing residents in La Union and neighboring areas.

The dissident group were using M-79 and M-16 armalite rifles during the firefight yet the government troopers drove them towards Barangay Talisay, still in San Isidro town, the report said.

No casualties were reported in both forces during the firefight, however, one Honda 125 motorcycle was recovered by government troopers after the fight.

Troops Abuse Locals After Ambush

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 30 Dec 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Henri Piosca]

[Text] Residents of Upper Kibalang, a remote sitio situated at the southwestern border of Baguio District some sixty kilometers away from Davao City, celebrated a terrifying Christmas Day, December 25, in the hands of Airborne soldiers and Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF) volunteers.

The resident's ordeal started when a speeding city-bound fish delivery car "fish car" with three Airborne soldiers on board was ambushed in broad daylight by armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA).

Civilian witnesses disclosed that the fishcar was cruising at normal speed along the Bukidnon-Davao highway when it was ambushed by the armed men who took position from atop a nearby hill. The volley of shots reportedly missed the soldiers and other occupants of the car.

Witnesses added that the car driver was able to maneuver his vehicle in a zigzag direction as it sped away towards the city. The ambush took place two-hundred meters away from some fifty residential houses clustered along the highway.

At around ten o'clock, one hour after the alleged ambush, a reinforcement of some fifty Airborne soldiers and CHDFs arrived aboard three passenger jeeps. The Airborne soldiers, with no name tags attached on their uniforms, were reportedly the companions of the soldiers aboard the fish car who survived the ambush.

The soldiers and CHDFs allegedly separated the males from women and children. They reportedly interrogated the men one by one on the details of the said ambush. The residents denied knowledge on the ambush although they admitted having heard and seen the fish car being fired at by the alleged armed men.

Two of the males were allegedly manhandled by the soldiers because their house was reportedly the nearest to the ambush site.

Physically injured with blows from Armalite (M-16) butts were Ecoy Payuson and his son, Victor. Both father and son were physically abused because they reportedly denied having links with the NPAs. Victor, a watch repairman, was suspected of being a sympathizer of the NPA reportedly because the wrist-watches he repairs are owned by the NPAs.

The beating of the two men and the harassment of the residents reportedly came to a stop when three gunshots were fired again from atop the hill. This created panic among the residents as they were ordered by the soldiers to lie flat on the ground. The soldiers and CHDFs reportedly returned fire to the alleged armed men. Witnesses disclosed that the three gunshots were apparently fired by the armed men to make their presence felt by the Airborne soldiers.

and CHDFs. After the three gunshots fired by the armed men, no more shots were heard coming from atop the hill.

The soldiers and the CHDFs reportedly did not pursue the armed men but arrested eleven residents and took along with them on their way back to their detachment reportedly to cover them from further ambush. The arrested persons were Ecoy Payusan and his two sons, Victor and Sonny; Flora Cantutay and her daughter Fe; Boy Geranco, Eddie Jaymar, a certain Bobby and three more others. They were brought to the Airborne detachment in Barangay Tibal-og, four kilometers away from Kibalang. The arrested residents were released only the following day.

Witnesses recalled that the Airborne soldiers and CHDF volunteers headed by one Roldan, Barangay Captain of Kibalang, have been conducting zoning operations in their barangay for the past several months. They disclosed that most of the operations of the Airborne soldiers and the local CHDFs are done on the border districts of Davao City, North Cotabato and Bukidnon provinces. Witnesses claimed the residents were warned by Barangay Captain Roldan that more zoning operations will be conducted should the residents continue to be uncooperative to the military regarding their subversive activities in their locality.

One Dead, One Wounded in Caraga Fight

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 30 Dec 84 pp 8, 6

[Article by Dol Onez]

[Text] A dissident was killed while another was wounded when combined government troopers encountered a group of fully armed men believed to be guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA) at Sitio Pacahon, Barangay San Pedro, Caraga, Davao Oriental, early evening Saturday last week.

Sketchy report reaching the Davao Oriental PC/INP Command from the 433rd PC Company identified only the captured wounded dissident member as one Romeo Longyapon. The slain NPA guerrilla's identity was not established by military authorities as no pertinent papers leading to his identity were recovered after the firefight, the report said.

The combined PC/INP team led by C2C Benedicto Pichon were on preventive patrol at Barangay San Pedro and Neighboring areas when they chanced upon the marauding rebels at Sitio Pacahon.

The firefight lasted for 10 minutes after which the armed group fled on different directions leaving one of their dead comrades and another captured, the report said.

The troopers were sent to augment the police force of Caraga as threats to attack the town were earlier monitored.

Earlier, another group of armed men engaged in a heavy firefight at Sitio Crossing Logdeck, in Manay town.

No casualties were reported on both forces in that Manay encounter, however, a total of 5 civilians were caught by stray bullets during the ensuing exchange of gunfires.

Government troopers recovered one M-1 Cal. 30 Garand rifle at the scene of encounter after the gunbattle.

Col. Pena, Davao Oriental PC/INP Commander ordered all military operating units in the east coast towns, particularly Manay, Caraga and Baganga to be on full red alert. The order was made following intelligence report of massive attack by dissident groups anytime before the year ends.

CSO: 4200/435

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST ON MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME

HK250941 Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 15 Jan 85 p 3

["Scanning the Events" Column by Noel Miranda: "A Universal Problem"]

[Text] In many instances, members of the Inp, PC or PA [Integrated National Police, Philippine Constabulary, Philippine Army] who are implicated in a crime cannot be apprehended by fellow lawmen because of a wrong application of "esprit de corps."

The situation in Davao del Norte is different. The INP Norte is different. The INP intelligence operatives themselves personally put to end the activities of their brothers in uniform suspected to be behind criminal activities. The other day, these "intel" men apprehended one of their companions, a policeman assigned in Tagum for complicity in a crime of a series of holdups.

For their sincerity and dedication to duty, I wish to congratulate Cpl. Fausto Laingo, Pat. Johnny Lopez, Pat. Jimmy Maug and Pat. Abdul Kareen Jalain. These cops earlier apprehended their friend who was pinpointed as financier of masiao [illegal gambling] in Davao del Norte. Toto, Johnny, Jim and Abdul should continue the good work if only to serve as examples to their backsliding fellow-men in uniform.

The problem of people in the government being yet involved in holdups or graft and corruptions and other forms of crimes seems to have become common. One root cause I'm sure is these men's involvement in heavy gambling. Another cause is that despite the meager income, some government men still maintain women other than their legal wife. This of course happens even in other countries, according to Mrs. Grace Valderrama, wife of Col Geronimo Valderrama new Davao Norte Provincial Commander.

Mrs. Valderrama who goes abroad a lot as nurse consultant of World Health Organization, said that if there are military personnel committing immoral acts, the commander must be partially blamed. "I asked my husband to make himself the example and idol of his men." She said many Filipinos have forgotten old-fashioned moral values, Mrs. Valderrama said.

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

DEFENSE MINISTER RULES OUT AMNESTY FOR ALL

HK251509 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Jan 85 p 22

[Text] Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday told the Batasang Pambansa he is not in favor of granting general amnesty to political prisoners but will do so only on a selective basis.

He also said in yesterday's Question Hour that only President Marcos has the authority to release detainees.

Enrile answered questions from opposition members of Parliament on the plight of the country's political prisoners. The MPS are Zafiro Respicio (Davao), Douglas Cagas (Davao), Isidoro Real, (Zamboanga del Sur), and Augusto Sanchez, (Pasig).

He defined political detainees as those who translated their ideological beliefs into covert acts considered criminal. However, he said, no one has been imprisoned because of being "enamored" with his political beliefs.

Enrile told the MPS that there are 505 political detainees in the country as of December 1984, all of them formally charged. The bases for their continued detention, he said, were duly issued warrants of arrest like preventive detention action and presidential commitment order.

Region 11 has the highest number of political detainees, 92; followed by Region 8 with 73 and Region 2 with 51.

Enrile said the government plans to hold them under detention and rehabilitate them until they are recommended for temporary release.

He also allayed fears of MP Real that martial law would be reimposed and the "small vocal" opposition MPS could be arrested. "There is no basis to anticipate the declaration of martial law."

Enrile also said he does not formulate policies on political detainees but is merely their "custodians. He said these policies are formulated "elsewhere."

In reply to the question on torture from MP Sanchez, a lawyer of several political detainees, Enrile said it is not a government policy to allow torture of political detainees.

Meanwhile, measures filed yesterday with the Batasan include:

--A bill repealing PD 1804 which prohibits and penalizes the granting of permits for rallies, to persons found guilty of rebellion, sedition or subversion authored by MP Arturo Cuanco, PDP-LANBAN [PILIPINO Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan], Cebu;

--An act restoring the tax exemption privileges enjoyed by cottage industries producers under PD 1788 by KBL [KILUSANG Bagong Lipunan] MP Concordio Diel.

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST ON MILITARY COUPS

HK251451 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 25 Jan 85 pp 6, 12

[Column by S. W. Yolanda: "On Military Coups"]

[Text] The story goes that the late Benigno Aquino Jr. had just given seven reasons why President Marcos would not declare martial law in a speech before Ateneo students when, on the same night, martial law was implemented. This is probably the traumatic experience which makes Filipinos concerned about a possible military coup should the President step down for any reason. And this is probably why Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, no less than his predecessor, Gen. Fabian C. Ver, had to address the speculation squarely and assure everybody that a coup will not be entertained by the leaders of the military establishment. Experience of the "impossible," all the same, has made many men of good-will wary about emphatic assertions and denials.

Fear and lack of confidence sap logic and precedence. There is no reason for speculating on a military coup, since the succession processes are already in place. On the other hand, the long tradition of the military records a loyalty to the Constitution and an adherence to civilian supremacy. But because people lack confidence in the strength of popular sovereignty that they nonetheless fear a military takeover, some overly timid souls are appealing to the US to exercise its clout in preventing a coup.

Some facts are presented alarmingly, among which is the growing strength of the insurgency: this will necessarily increase the prominence of the military role. While it is true that economic and social measures are indispensable in counter-insurgency, the ability of the military to keep the peace is a necessary condition.

On the other hand, the disarray in the opposition may infect the entire political system, and this could make military intervention imperative. No doubt, the entire complexion of political power-seeking has been changed by martial law. It is as if the shark has tasted human blood.

There is thus no absolute certainty that a military coup will not be an alternative, but not anymore than there is an absolute certainty that the world will not be blown to bits by a nuclear war. In either case, there has to be a group of men which must carry out the unthinkable.

But it is a mistake to think that officers and men in uniform have individual and group interests different from those of civilians that they will take over a government for the sake of power and privilege. In that respect, Filipinos do not have the temperament of banana republicans. If there is to be a coup, one should look for its probable vested beneficiaries: the U.S. and its security interests, the multinationals and their economic interests, and power brokers impelled by ideology. The Filipino officer and soldier do not have such interests, although conceivably they may obey higher authorities who can convince them that loyalty to the flag demands a coup.

In short, the contingencies and factors behind any military coup are highly complex, and, under the circumstances, highly improbable. A reasonable man cannot expect much more than such an assurance. Everyone has an obligation to make that a certainty.

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST ON DIFFICULTY IN LACK OF REBEL COMMAND

HK280143 Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 27 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Apolonio Batalla: "The Insurgency Problem"]

[Text] One difficulty that is being encountered by the government in dealing with the rebels is the rebels do not have a single overall leader in the field. There does not seem to be an overall collective leadership, either.

If there had been that kind of leadership, the government would not have wasted time identifying the leader or leaders publicly.

What is evident from the popular literature released by the government is the existence of rebel "commanders" in the challenged areas.

If there was an overall command, the government could deal with it in any manner whatever and the problem would be tractable. The government could talk peace with the leadership and the differences could be ironed out.

If, on the other hand, peace could not be attained, the sequestration of the leadership could spell the collapse of the armed struggle in the countryside.

The situation here seems to be different from that in El Salvador, where the rebel forces are commanded by certain identified leaders. A few months back, the highest government authorities and the rebel leaders were able to meet to discuss terms. Although there was a failure of agreement, the situation was made tractable by the existence of a known leadership in the rebel ranks.

The difficulty about the insurgency in the Philippines is the government may stop rebellion in one province but the success cannot be replicated elsewhere. The anti-insurgency campaign is purely a firefighting job.

In reality, not a single troubled province has been emptied of active insurgents. A situation may be controlled one day but the rebels will come back to fight another day.

If, indeed, there is no overall leadership, the cause makes all the difference. The cause takes the place of the overall leader. On that assumption, the military approach alone cannot be relied on to solve the problem.

There are military leaders who think that the military approach should be combined with a political approach. But what does this precisely mean? A political solution can take any number of forms.

Aside from the apparent lack of overall rebel leadership, the difficulty is only the government is actively pursuing the solution to the problem of insurgency.

In the troubled places, most of the people are too scared to be of any help. In rebel-free areas, the citizenry is indifferent.

Helping solve the problem does not necessarily mean fighting the rebels. The solution that, we think, is in the mind of most Filipinos is to put an end to the conflict, and there are many ways of achieving peace.

In recent months, the politicians and many other people have been thinking about the intricacies of partisan politics--the presidential succession, the evolution of the political parties, the probable candidates, and so on. All this entails a lot of imagination.

On the other hand, the politicians and the citizenry have not been as imaginative in seeking peace. Their indifference to the insurgency problem suggests the belief in the remoteness of the threat, even though the government spends large sums of the taxpayers' money every day for the anti-surgency campaign.

It does not seem to have occurred to most Filipinos that the problem is contributing to their poverty.

Nor has it occurred to them that the threat, as it is, has more chances of growing than diminishing.

We can imagine the existence of an overall rebel command and a determined citizenry. Those two conditions would contribute to an early solution. In their absence, what should be done that has not been tried?

CSO: 4200/452

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

BANK IN RECEIVERSHIP--The Monetary Board has placed under receivership Banco Pilipino, which has gone bankrupt after it was hit by a crippling bank run last year. This was revealed by President Marcos yesterday [25 January]. He said the board's action came after finding the Banco Pilipino Savings and Mortgage Bank insolvent, and that its continuance in business would involve probable loss to depositors and creditors. A bank placed under receivership is forbidden from doing business in the Philippines. The appointed receiver is to immediately take charge of the bank's assets and liabilities. The Monetary Board named in its resolution Central Bank Deputy Governor (Carlota Valenzuela) as receiver. The president said all Banco Pilipino deposit accounts are now being transferred to the state-owned Philippine National Bank. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 25 Jan 85]

DOLLAR PURCHASES WEAKENED PESO--Dollar purchases by the Central Bank from the interbank markets starting Wednesday last week weakened the peso against the U.S. dollar. After posting an all-time high of 18.25 pesos per dollar, the entry of the Central Bank enabled the U.S. dollar to rally for three days, forcing the peso to settle at 18.384 pesos Friday. The mild retreat of the peso against the U.S. currency however failed to wipe out the gains posted by the peso since the start of the year. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 27 Jan 85]

PRIORITY TO HOUSING PROGRAM--President Marcos yesterday [27 January] said the government will continue to give top priority to the National Shelter Program. He called for more intensive participation from the private sector in housing ventures. The president said the government is committed to sustain the housing program, particularly groups who cannot afford open-market or high-cost housing. He said the revised 4-year development plan has targeted the construction of an average of more than 103,000 yearly from 1984-1987, or a total of more than 412,000 units. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 27 Jan 85]

MINISTER ON FOREST DESTRUCTION--Natural Resources Minister Rodolfo del Rosario has warned that the country would be importing logs instead of exporting the items by the year 2000 unless forest conservation overtakes the destruction. Del Rosario said that the country's 5 million hectares of virgin forests are threatened not only by illegal logging and smuggling but also by [word indistinct] and farming. According to del Rosario, the Philippines is the only country in Southeast Asia that is still exporting logs. [Text] [Guezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 26 Jan 85]

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

GASOLINE IMPORT TALKS SUSPENDED--Tokyo, 24 Jan (KYODO)--Negotiations for purchase of gasoline from Singapore Petroleum Co. by Japan's Lions Petroleum Company have been suspended until April, according to a Lions spokesman. Taiji Sato, president of the Kanagawa-based company, has been visiting Singapore since Tuesday to discuss the purchase of 3,000 kiloliters of gasoline. Lions Petroleum gave up a previous attempt to import cheap Singaporean gasoline earlier this month under pressure from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. The Japanese Government policy discourages the import of gasoline in order to protect the domestic refining industry. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0958 GMT 24 Jan 85]

CSO: 4200/442

THAILAND

EDITORIAL HAILS FOREIGN POLICY

BK180315 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 18 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Thai Foreign Policy Takes a Step Forward"]

[Text] The first of January this year, the date when Thailand took her seat in the United Nations Security Council, should be considered a watershed in this country's foreign policy and we are pleased that Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila has chosen the right time to meet journalists and spell out what he calls Thailand's "omnidirectional" foreign policy. It may be correctly said that Sitthi has not mentioned any major changes in foreign policy but it must also be rightly added that he has taken a positive step forward.

Part of the widening and deepening of our foreign policy has been thrust on us by our membership in the Security Council where our representative has to vote positively, negatively or abstain when resolutions concerning Fiji or Gabon or about Poland or Belize are likely to come up. There may be day-to-day work of the Security Council but there are always larger problems of high international importance right around the corner and on which Thailand will have to take a stand.

Sitthi did not spell it out in such concrete terms, but we are sure that is what he meant when he said, "Although we are a small country, we are simply too big for small ideas." Time was when we had small ideas--we put all our foreign policy problems in the American basket and all our economic problems in the Japanese basket. But the world has changed and the black-and-white picture is coated with a mass of grey.

Sitthi points that it is not a world with many centers of power and adds: "But we confront the agenda with confidence, and with the awareness that the efforts which have brought us this far must not be allowed to dissipate." Being Thailand's top diplomat, Sitthi cannot afford the luxury of indulging in concrete reference but in the old days there was the demarcation of East and West as centers of power--the East being Moscow and the Warsaw Pact while the West was Washington and NATO. Obviously, the new centers of power are Hanoi and Beijing.

Realization of problems, and to some extent foreseeing, are part of foreign policy since the full understanding of a problem is essential to find a solution and in this Sitthi seems very confident when he says that "our sense of directions has returned." While a sense of direction is of course necessary, there is always the question of keeping options open. But options cannot be kept permanently open and in this choice one way or the other has to be made in consonance with the sense of direction.

Thailand's foreign policy will face the litmus test during the next 2 years during which time she will be a member of the UN Security Council. While we have to keep our 'omnidirectional' stance as a member of the world body, there will have to be other decisions made which affect only Thailand and then of course there is only the matter of self-interest.

CSO: 4200/444

THAILAND

EDITORIAL OPTIMISTIC ON KHMER RESISTANCE

BK230159 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 14 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Khmer Rouge Tactics Can Stand Up to Vietnamese"]

[Text] If the Vietnamese want to mop up all Khmer resistance during this dry season, as has been said often before, then the battle has been joined--'joined' is not the correct word since the Khmer Rouge do not 'join' any battle. The Khmer Rouge are battle-hardened guerrillas who will never fight any pitched battles. They will always be on the run--in unpredictable directions--hitting at the Vietnamese bases or supply routes with total surprise.

The Vietnamese themselves are masters of this art as the Americans found out, but now the Vietnamese seem to have changed to more conventional battlefield tactics using tanks and armoured personal carriers. Further the Vietnamese are not employing their elite troops almost all of which are in the northern part of the country along the Chinese border. In their talks yesterday, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila and Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian seem to have agreed that the resistance forces would be capable of holding their own against the Vietnamese.

It took the Vietnamese more than 2 months to eliminate the resistance forces that are under the control of Prime Minister Son Sann and President Norodom Sihanouk of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. The fighters of these two factions are not dyed-in-the-wool guerrillas like the Khmer Rouge but although they have lost their bases, they still live to fight another day. Neither of the factions suffered heavy casualties.

At the moment the Son Sann faction, the larger of the two, is in the process of reorganizing its resistance forces and general tactics. They intend to follow the Khmer Rouge strategy of establishing small, secret strongholds deeper inside Kampuchea--more than 100 to 150 kms from the Thai border--and to train hit-and-run guerrillas. How far the Son Sann faction will be successful is yet to be seen and they certainly cannot put their strategy into operation during the current dry season.

From the Vietnamese point of view, wiping out the resistance of the Khmer Rouge would be a bigger problem than they bargained for. Apart from other factors, the Khmer Rouge are also better supplied by China than the other two factions. And the Vietnamese realize full well that if the Khmer Rouge run into deep trouble--something which does not happen to be in the cards now--the Chinese will escalate the fighting along the common border in order to relieve the pressure on the Khmer Rouge.

There are 4 or 5 months more to go before the monsoon breaks, and it is also possible that the rains may come earlier this year. During the rainy season of last year, the Khmer Rouge proved that they could hit deep inside Kampuchea and that means that they have some small enclaves behind the battle-lines, which are never clear to start with. Chinese Foreign Minister Wu should know the situation better than anybody else and if he is optimistic that the resistance forces will hold out, we share this optimism.

CSO: 4200/444

THAILAND

COMMUNIST SUSPECTS ARRESTED

BK210953 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 21 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Trang--Three alleged insurgents of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) were arrested in this southern province last Saturday along with weapons, documents and 126,017 baht in cash, police reported. Police said that the suspects, two of them former students, were arrested in Huai Yot District.

Acting on a tip-off, a 350-man police force from Nakhon Si Thammarat together with Huai Yot District police were deployed in Tambon Nong Pru and Tambon Tha Ngiu at 4:00 am on 19 January.

Police reportedly stopped a pick-up truck at the Ban Lamchang intersection in Tambon Nong Pru and arrested the three occupants who acted suspiciously.

The three were identified as Thongchai Suwanwihok or Comrade Chuang, a native of Muang District, Surat Thani Province; Subin Pankitti or Comrade La, a native of Muang District, Uttaradit Province; and Sa-nga Sriphokha or Comrade Chai, a native of Pak Phanang District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.

Police said Thongchai and Subin were former university students who joined the CPT after the 6 October 1976 incident.

The three were alleged to be insurgents operating in an area adjoining Trang, Krabi and Nakhon Si Thammarat.

During the arrests, police also confiscated two 11mm revolvers, 13 items of communist indoctrination documents, a notebook containing CPT meeting reports, an account book and 126,017 baht in cash.

The suspects were accused of being responsible for the kidnapping of Somwang Sincharoenkun, a wealthy businessman of Trang Province on 8 July last year, police said.

CSO: 4200/444

THAILAND

BRIEFS

QUEEN IN SATISFACTORY CONDITION—Her Majesty the Queen's condition has improved satisfactorily after her eye operation at Chitlada Palace yesterday. The Bureau of the Royal Household said the operation on Her Majesty's lower eyelids was performed using a local anaesthetic. The queen was able to rest and sleep after the operation and there were no signs of complications. The operation was performed by specialists including ophthalmologist Uthai Ratnin, otolaryngologist Lt-Gen Atsawin Thephakham and royal physicians. The queen has been suffering from inflamed lower eyelids since last July. [Text] [BK180308 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jan 85 p 1]

LIBEL SUIT AGAINST MATICHON—Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek filed a 20 million baht civil libel suit against the weekly MATICHON yesterday. Last week, General Athit filed a criminal libel suit against the magazine over gossip column items dealing with the extension of his term in office and linking him with a former beauty queen. General Athit's writ said the first item claimed he was not interested in his work and had gone on trips abroad with a former Miss Universe without going through proper channels to get approval in advance. General Athit said the magazine also published his picture alongside that of former Miss Universe Aphatsara Hongsakun. The supreme commander claimed he followed Defence Ministry regulations in taking leave and was accompanied abroad by his daughter. The report, he alleged, damaged his reputation here and abroad and among superiors, subordinates and the public. In addition, said General Athit, the reports also affected his career prospects. Named in the writ were Matichon Co and editor Roengchai Sapniran. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jan 85 p 1]

SITTHI TO VISIT INDIA, EUROPE—Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila will leave for India and Europe in March for a 2-week visit, an informed source told THE NATION yesterday. The source said that Sitthi is tentatively scheduled to leave for New Delhi on 17 March, before he continues his trip to Italy, Spain and Portugal. Sitthi cancelled his trip to India, which was originally planned for 8-11 November last year, because of the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The source said that Sitthi is expected to meet Indian leaders including President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. When Sitthi visits India, the source said, he is expected to sign an agreement on avoidance of double

taxation with India in order to promote trade ties in the years to come. The upcoming visit to India will be a historical one since Sitthi will be the highest official to visit India in 6 years. [Excerpt] [Bangkok TNE NATION REVIEW in English 23 Jan 85 p 5]

SAILOR KILLED IN MEKONG--Loei--A sailor of the Mekong Patrol Unit was shot dead on the Mekong River opposite Chiang Khan District here on Thursday night while trying to capture Pathet Lao troopers who sneaked into Thailand to buy strategic goods, police here reported yesterday. Killed was Private Siu Nuchuai, 24, who died in Chiang Khan Hospital after being shot in the chest at 9 pm, police said. Two Laotian troopers, Keo Chansoubin, 20, and Sinuan (surname unknown) were later arrested along with their rowing boat, police said. A report said that the incident took place when the naval patrol boat headed by Lt Kriangsak Suksai, RN, was patrolling near the Kutku island in the middle of the Mekong River when a rowing boat from Laos was spotted. The patrol boat tried to block it, but the rowers escaped to Thai side and fired on the naval boat, hitting Private Siu in the chest. The two Laotian soldiers were later arrested. The police found on them 5,100 baht cash and an order for medical supplies and other strategic goods worth about 60,000 baht, police said. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 19 Jan 85 p 3]

INDIA'S STAND ON CAMBODIA--Nonaligned India had changed its attitude toward the Kampuchean issue and sympathises with Thailand on the refugee burden, Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun said this morning. Mr Phichai made this observation after returning from India where he had met and discussed matters with the Indian President and Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He was in India for several days for an international Rotarian conference. During the visit he talked with the Indian President for more than 45 minutes and also had over an hour of talk with the Indian Deputy Permanent Secretary. Mr Phichai said that the Indian President expressed concern that the Kampuchean (war) issue has intensified and the influx of refugees has increased the burden to Thailand. Mr Phichai said that in his talk with the Indian Deputy Permanent Secretary the Kampuchean issue was raised, during which the Indian side condemned interference from superpowers. Should interference continue, there can be no peace or happiness in either the Southeast Asian region or South Asian countries, Mr Phichai quoted the Indian side as saying. India was the first non-communist country to recognise the Heng Samrin Government. Despite this fact, Mr Phichai said that he noted that the Indian administration has developed a better stand toward the Kampuchean issue. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 22 Jan 85 p 32]

CSO: 4200/444

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

HANOI DENOUNCES PRC SHELLINGS IN BORDER AREAS

OW261229 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Jan 85

[From the "Review of Domestic Events in the Week"]

[Text] We also review in this program the Chinese reactionaries' crimes in January against our people in Sino-Vietnamese border areas.

In past days, in Ha Tuyen, Hoang Lien Son, Lai Chau, Cao Bang, Lang Son, and Quang Ninh, Chinese troops have perpetrated many crimes to intimidate our people while they welcomed the Tet festival and celebrated the coming of the new spring. Especially in Ha Tuyen, from 15-17 January, the Chinese authorities mobilized many infantry units from heights deep inside Vietnamese Territory in Vi Xuyen district that they have grabbed since April 1984 to launch attacks on, and grab land in, surrounding areas. In support of these acts, Chinese batteries conducted many highly destructive shellings on many Vietnamese areas. In these 3 days alone, they fired more than 50,000 assorted artillery and mortar shells, causing many crimes against the local people.

The serious crimes perpetrated by Chinese soldiers as well as China's arrogant rejection of Vietnam's proposal to suspend all armed activities along the common border of the two countries while the peoples of Vietnam and China welcomed the lunar New Year and celebrated the coming of the new spring have fully exposed the frenzied anti-Vietnam policy and the reactionary, inhumane, and unpopular nature of the Chinese expansionist-hegemonists.

The Vietnamese people are determined to heighten vigilance and are ready to fight back against all schemes and acts of encroachment on their sacred national rights, and to firmly defend their fatherland's borders and their own lives.

CSO: 4209/186

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

SOURCES SAY TENSION ALONG SRV-PRC BORDER CONSIDERABLY EASED

HK280946 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi, January 28 (AFP)--Tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border has eased considerably in recent days despite Vietnamese press reports to the contrary, sources said here today.

One of the sources, a senior Vietnamese officer who declined to be named, said Chinese troops are basically observing a truce covering the lunar new year period proposed by Vietnam early this month but rejected by China.

Vietnam celebrated the lunar new year last week, while China observes it in late February.

Well-informed western diplomats also said tension at the border was no higher now than usual.

These views ran counter to an editorial published yesterday in the Vietnamese Communist Party newspaper, NHAN DAN, blaming China for what it called a "more and more tense" situation along their 1,100 km (680 mile) border.

Two weeks ago, Hanoi and Peking accused one another of escalating tension at the border and said hundreds of troops backed by heavy artillery had clashed there.

These reports, which could not be independently confirmed, coincided with Vietnam's dry season offensive against Cambodian resistance guerrillas along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Diplomatic sources said China regularly steps up pressure on its border with Vietnam during Hanoi's offensives against the anti-Vietnamese guerrillas to help ease pressure on them.

The diplomats, citing Vietnamese sources and local press reports, also said China had recently stationed another two divisions along the Sino-Vietnamese border, bringing its total strength in the area to about 22 divisions.

NHAN DAN, however, said there are "nearly 30 divisions" of Chinese troops in the area.

The daily said China had the same troop strength at the border now as it did in 1979, when Chinese and Vietnamese forces fought a brief but bloody war shortly after Hanoi forces toppled the pro-Peking Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.

Diplomats citing Vietnamese sources said clashes at the Sino-Vietnamese border this year have not been as intense as they were last year during Hanoi's dry season offensive in Cambodia.

But Vietnamese attacks against the Cambodian resistance this year appear to have been mainly directed against bases of the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) at the Thai-Cambodian border.

Diplomatic sources here are speculating whether China would take stronger action if Vietnamese soldiers launched a major assault against the main stronghold of the Communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas in the Phnum Malai mountain area in northwest Cambodia.

CSO: 4200/454

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

TRAVEL TICKET SPECULATORS CONVICTED

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 3 Oct 84 : 4

[Article by H.G.: "Stiff Penalty Imposed for Speculation in Travel Tickets"]

[Text] On 29 September 1984, at Saigon Train Station, the Municipal People's Court convicted Dinh Tung Phuong, Nguyen Thi Le Tuyet, and their accomplices for the crime of speculating in transportation tickets.

In 1979, Dinh Tung Phuong and his wife, Nguyen Thi Le Tuyet, began buying and selling train tickets. At first, they took the papers of the travelers to the station, bought tickets, returned to the clients, and received their remuneration. Seeing that this yielded a large profit for little work, Dinh Tung Phuong, in 1981, rented property from Nguyen Van Lam at 26 Nguyen An Ninh Street (1st Precinct) as a contact point, engaged the help of Nguyen Kim Loan, a person without stable employment, and hired personnel who sold tickets at the train station, like Le Thi Thuy, Tran Thi Kim Loi, and Nguyen Van Dung, to contact clients. For persons who needed to travel by train but did not have proper papers, Dinh Tung Phuong sold printed documents "attesting to the loss of papers" bearing a false seal and signature of the chief of the public security office of Subward 11, 1st Precinct.

While buying and selling train tickets, Thi Tuyet became acquainted with Pham Van Minh. Knowing that Minh could buy airline tickets, Tuyet contacted him to find out how to buy them. None of the people who had Thi Tuyet buy tickets for them had proper papers, because of their illegal means of livelihood, so Thi Tuyet had sold them counterfeit recommendation papers, travel papers, and leave papers--prepared by Dinh Tung Phuong--and took the papers to Pham Van Minh to buy tickets. When the case was uncovered, the security agency found over 160 counterfeit recommendations used by Pham Van Minh to buy tickets at the Tan Son Nhat Airport ticket office.

In this fraudulent way of life, Dinh Tung Phuong, Nguyen Thi Le Tuyet and their accomplices bought dozens of tickets every day, making illegal profits of as much as a thousand dong.

The Municipal People's Court sentenced Dinh Tung Phuong to 12 years in prison, Nguyen Thi Le Tuyet to 8 years, and the other defendants to 2-4 years.

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

HIGH-PRESSURE PUMP THEFT, SMUGGLING NETWORK EXPOSED

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 11 Oct 84 pp 1, 4

[Article by Le Tien Tuyen]

[Text] From Cases of Unrecovered Losses of "Oil Pigs"...

At the end of last year, after a long trip, Tran Van Hon, a driver for the Eastern Interprovince Commercial Transportation Corporation, pulled into the parking lot. Although the parking lot had an attendant, the next day, when he came to inspect the bus before going to the station to pick up passengers, the high-pressure pump had disappeared. Although the management unit organized a search, the lost article could not be found. Unable to let the vehicle stand idle during a time of high passenger volume at the end of the year, Hon had a friend go buy another pump on the free market and temporarily advanced the money--at a price of 40,000 dong!

The high-pressure pump, commonly called the "oil pig" by the drivers, is an indispensable accessory on large trucks and passenger busses that run on diesel fuel. The state must import this scarce and expensive item. It is a frequent target of thieves. No small number of transport units have lost the "oil pig." An incident of the loss of a high-pressure pump occurred recently at Enterprise 37/2. On the afternoon of Saturday, 30 June, the vehicle was still operational, but on Monday, the unit's "oil pig" was "lost." In an on-the-spot investigation, the public security agency found that the enterprise had been carefully secured with a high fence and with a well guarded, single front gate. So what was the route by which the high-pressure pump "exited" the establishment?

...To the Open-air Auto Parts Market

Since the day of liberation, the city has sprouted no small number of open-air auto parts markets.

Among the largest are the auto parts sales areas on Nguyen Cong Tru Street (1st Precinct), Minh Phung Street (11th Precinct), and the Bay Hien crossroads (Tan Binh). In addition, there are "mobile" sidewalk sales stands, for which the trademark is an old barrel with a few parts from damaged autos. Making the rounds of these stands, all one sees displayed are miscellaneous items of little value, usually used parts bought at hardware stores or stripped from

discarded machinery, like bolts, headlights, electrical switches, and fanbelts. Nevertheless, many acquaintances at these "sundry goods businesses" tell us that the stands have whatever the customer wants--the stand merchant will provide him complete service. The customer has only to state the type, whether new or old, and the manufacturing country and agree to pay the price; the merchant will then tell him the time and place to pick it up and pay for it.

A number of "tricky" auto parts dealers have been recently showing up at these places. They are individuals without registered businesses or shops who hang around the market to lay hands on merchandise illegally. Truong Duy Phat, a resident of 249 Ngo Gia Tu Street, is such a person. At 1730 hours on 20 July, under a heavy downpour, Phat was followed by the economy police of the 10th Precinct and caught in the act of selling the high-pressure pump of a 354 commercial transport vehicle to a customer for 30,000 dong.

Investigating the "Oil Pig" Distribution Network

Phat had no shop in Nguyen Cong Tru Market; he was only a contact man, an intermediary in the distribution and exchange of merchandise. Where did he acquire the high-pressure pump, an item in the category of strategic goods not allowed to be exchanged on the private market?

Phat disclosed that he had made the purchase from one Tran Van Chiem, the owner of a motorcycle parts processing shop at 849C Hau Giang Street, 6th Precinct. Actually, Chiem's processing shop was only a front; his main occupation was illegally storing and retailing auto parts. Chiem revealed that he had bought the "oil pig" from Nguyen Van Long, an auto mechanic at an auto repair shop on Hung Vuong Street, 6th Precinct. The economy police force of the 10th Precinct continued the investigation of the network, arresting Long. Long disclosed that he had bought the high-pressure pump from Mai Ngoc Ton. When she was arrested, Ton revealed that Huynh Thanh Queyen, a resident of 184/9 Au Duong Lan Street, 8th Precinct, a motorized pedicab driver, had transported Truong Huu Tai and Tran Minh Quang to her to sell her the pump.

The last fellow in the chain of illegal activity had been exposed. Quang was an assistant driver for the Eastern Interprovince Commercial Transport Corporation. He had stolen the high-pressure pump of driver Tran Van Hon. Their illegal operations network was flexible, but very regulated and tight. The price of the "oil pig" had increased as it passed through the hands of each person in the chain of intermediaries. Quang sold it to Ton for 12,000 dong; Ton turned it over to Chiem for 17,000 dong; Chiem sold it to Phat for 25,000 dong. In the final transaction, Phat sold it to the customer for 30,000 dong.

"The needle wrapped in a rag will someday work its way out!"

Ringleader of the High Pressure Pump Speculation Operation

Only a thorough investigation of the network engaged in receipt and sale of stolen high-pressure pumps reveals the true face of Tran Van Chiem. Ostensibly, he was a worker in an auto repair enterprise of the state. In actuality, this was a swindle to escape investigation by the authorities and to have a place

to weigh and test high-pressure pumps--the enterprise had modern equipment for weighing and testing all types of high-pressure pumps. His principal place of operation was the machine parts processing shop at 849C Hau Giang Street, 6th Precinct.

Chiem had carefully concealed even this principal place of employment. Viewed from the outside, it was a squat house with sheet-metal roofing. It had a lathe and a number of odds and ends. Only when one got farther back did one see that it had more than one story and was equipped with full facilities. With the title of a motorcycle parts processing and repair shop, Chiem had the prerequisites for registering a business that was assessed low taxes. It was actually a rendezvous site for persons dealing in parts for vehicles and machines controlled by the state, the principal ones of which was the item of strategic goods: the "oil pig."

Exploiting negligence of guards at agencies and enterprises, Chiem and his youngest brother contacted wayward and degenerate elements in state agencies to steal parts and machinery and bring them out. Representative of this bad element were assistant driver Quang and mechanic Trinh Van Hanh. Hanh once worked for Dredging Enterprise 2, where he stole many of the enterprise's auto repair tools, was caught red-handed, and was fired. Coming to work at a new agency, he did not break his old habit, but joined the Chiem gang to engage in illegal activities.

Chiem was a full-fledged member of the illegal auto parts exchange market. His reputation was widespread. Drivers and heads of repair shops with a need for "oil pigs" in all provinces put in orders to him. When we searched Chiem's house we found 2 nearly complete high-pressure pumps, 208 high-pressure pump mechanisms being rebuilt, 13 pump rod sets of various kinds (comprising 78), 7 boxes of pump rods (32 pump rods), 17 Japanese CAV parts, 4 pump head assemblies, and large amounts of cash and gold. It might be said that the quantity of merchandise located there surpassed the number of "oil pigs" presently on hand in transportation units in the city. The total value of the goods seized was over 3 million dong!

Through the resolve of the economy police force of the 10th Precinct, a network merchandising state-controlled goods was exposed and all the principals arrested. This case provides further proof of the danger presented to the economy by dishonest merchants dealing in strategic materials.

9830

CSO: 4209/110

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

TRICKS OF CORRUPT PERSONNEL OF STATE STORE DISCLOSED

Hanoi DOC LAP in Vietnamese 28 Nov 84 p 7

[Article by Ha Chau: "At the Back of Intershop"]

[Text] In recent years, our on-the-spot export activities have taken a step forward with the opening of Intershops in the cities of Ho Chi Minh, Hanoi and Haiphong and the province of Quang Nam-Da Nang. Owing to the commercial activities of these shops, a notable amount of foreign currency has been collected each year for the state.

Because of the dynamism of its cadres and employees who have continuously tried to improve their commercial knowledge through study, the Haiphong Intershop--which was founded as late as May 1981--has achieved a yearly turnover of \$1 million and contributed to creating an initial source of capital enabling the city to acquire an additional amount of foreign currency to import materials and fuel to develop production, to build major water conservancy works and to complete the construction of the new Rao, Niem and An Duong bridges which people throughout the country have heard about.

In the 2-year period of 1982-83, however, a number of cadres in the shop misused their functions and power and turned it into a place of illegal dealings just because of a slackened economic-financial management and a failure of the high level--especially the Import-Export Corporations Federation--to exercise direct control.

/Connections with traders/ [in boldface]

The Intershop's function is to sell goods to foreign customers and overseas Vietnamese in order to accumulate foreign currency. Therefore, its salesclerks must strictly observe the promulgated principles and systems, have a sufficient knowledge of foreign languages and serve customers courteously with an attitude proper to socialist civilization in commercial matters.

However, for some time now, people have noticed that almost all salespersons in the Haiphong Intershop are wives, children or siblings of municipal cadres and that some of them even do not have the technical standards and qualifications required of the personnel of an international store.

Moreover, these salespersons have taken advantage of their positions [as relatives of municipal cadres] to show pride and arrogance in their daily contact with other male and female employees of the shop and frequently to violate the principles and systems in force as is the case of Nguyen Thi Nga who sold bicycles and motorbikes to unqualified customers and that of saleswomen Nguyen Thi Ha and Tran Thi Minh Hai who had negativistic manners of selling cloth. However, the shop director ignored both cases and took no action at all. At this sight, some cadres and shop employees came out against these misdeeds but were afterward "secretly harassed" or scheduled to leave the shop for other assignments.

In early 1982, with the municipal authorization, the shop opened an additional counter to sell goods to amass floating foreign currency (dollars circulating on the market). At that time, according to regulations, any dollar owner holding merely a certificate issued by the administrative authorities in his residential area was entitled to buy the Intershop's goods easily. Since then, the shop became a busy commercial place. Lots of goods--monosodium glutamate, satin, Japanese fans and radio sets, bicycles, motorbikes and so forth--which were bought and taken away by customers flowed toward various streets. Seeing that these were enticing, high-priced consumer goods, a number of big traders tried to seduce the shop cadres and employees and, at the same time, sent their henchmen out to buy up dollars and organize a merchandise purchasing network to serve their own purposes.

Through the medium of employee Nguyen Thi Nga, Intershop director Vu Tan abstained from acting openly but secretly "gave the green light" to other employees called Dang Thi Tuong, Nguyen Thi Ha and Tran Thi Minh Hai... to establish direct connections with traders. These employees bargained and agreed with traders on the quantities and kinds of goods which the latter wanted to buy: For example, the traders should offer a bribe of 400, 500 and 600 dong respectively if they wanted to buy gabardine, satin and a Japanese-made radio set or fan...

Since then, whenever there was a supply of some good quality, high-price merchandise, these bad employees of the shop would "give a tip-off" to the traders so that the latter might come immediately to buy it without any inconvenience. According to data compiled by the responsible organ, a dozen of commercial households were constantly on the alert to carry out commercial dealings with the shop; in some cases, the invoices issued to buyers falsely bore the names of foreign customers. Dang Thi Hong T. was one the customers who bought up to and even more than \$100,000 worth of goods; those with a lower turnover--such as Duong Thi Tam, Dinh Thi Vuong and her younger brother Dinh Van Lam--bought at least \$10,000 worth of goods each.

As more traders flocked in to buy goods, so did the bribes received grow larger. In her capacity as "stage manager," Nguyen Thi Nga advised director Vu Tan to have a letter box hung on the wall allegedly to collect

the customers' constructive opinions but actually to receive the bribes offered by traders. At the end of each sale shift, employees Dang Thi Tuong, Nguyen Thi Ha and Tran Thi Minh Hai in turn unlocked the letter box, took out the money and handed it over to Nguyen Thi Nga and Vu Tan.

No sooner had 2 months elapsed than this method of receiving bribes through a letter box was discovered by the masses. This news was rapidly conveyed to the responsible cadres at the Import-Export Corporations Federation but was immediately hushed up as if nothing happened.

Trader Dinh Thi Vuong and her younger brother Dinh Van Lam once came to the Intershop with \$1,900 to buy 1,597 meters of valuable fabrics of various kinds with the connivance of some shop employees. On receipt of the fabrics, Dinh Van Lam gave a so-called "tip" of 18,000 dong to Dang Thi Tuong and Nguyen Thi Nghi but Nguyen Thi Nga quickly scented the deal and ordered the money to be turned over to director Vu Tan for sharing.

Following that bribe sharing, Vu Tan was like a bait swallowing fish and, with the encouragement of Nguyen Thi Nga--his close assistant--, he plunged ever more deeply into illegal affairs. Tan appointed Nguyen Thi Nghi--with the participation of Pham Van Thi, head of the shop security guard unit--to go on setting up a network to receive the traders' bribes but this network did not operate for long before it was caught in the dragnet of law.

Interrogated by the investigating organ, the culprits confessed that they had received 498,000 dong of bribes from traders and certain buyers!

/Merchandise embezzlement/ [in boldface]

As director Vu Tan was applying for a visa to go to Singapore for the second time, a typist called Nguyen Thi Anh Tuyet--the younger sister of Nguyen Thi Nga--was caught red-handed stealing away odd pieces of cloth from the shop. Following this clue, security organs found out other substantial evidence and ordered the subsequent arrest of other employees named Nguyen Thi Nga, Nguyen Thi Nghi, Dang Thi Tuong, Nguyen Thi Ha and Tran Thi Minh Hai...The news shook up the whole commercial sector in the city but director Vu Tan remained calm because he believed some people would use their strong influence to protect the shop.

What was the actual outcome? Only 6 days after the disclosure of the bribe taking "network," economic policemen were seen coming to the shop to read a warrant for Tan's arrest, which flabbergasted him. Afterward, a search at his house revealed that he had been concealing 8.8 taels of gold without registering with the banking organ according to law.

On inquiry, we found that during his office tenure as director of Intershop, Vu Tan misused his power in handling merchandise and dollars and quickly degenerated with a desire to grow rich by illegal means.

A "business" network was thus formed right in the shop under the personal leadership of director Tan with the aid of capable subordinates such as Nguyen Thi Nga, Nguyen Thi Nghi, Dinh Thi Lan and Dang Thi Tuong... They used various tricks to steal the state goods such as taking batteries out of radio sets before selling them and selling 1,900 pairs of such batteries to Duong Thi Tam and some other illegal traders for 152,000 dong which they shared between them and pocketed. The regulations stated that whenever a small-sized Japanese motorbike was sold by the shop to a customer, it must be accompanied by a set of spare parts including a pair of tires and inner tubes, a chain and a freewheel. However, the shop employees conspired to shortchange customers by withholding 18 sets of spare parts worth 36,000 dong. From November 1982 to September 1983, Nguyen Thi Nghi, Nguyen Thi Ha and Tran Thi Minh Hai used dishonest reckoning tricks to replace odds and ends with whole and intact pieces of cloth and took out 3,927 meters of valuable fabric and handed them over to employee Nguyen Thi Nga who slipped them out to illegal traders Duong Thi Tam, Dinh Thi Vuong and Dinh Van Lam for subsequent sale.

In 1983, with the assistance of Trinh Tuan Tong and Ninh Xuan Son--cadres of the Equipment and Materials Corporation who acted as intermediaries--, director Vu Tan used the commercial business expansion of Intershop as a label to assume the purchase of iron and cement for resale to installations where foreign specialists worked in order to collect foreign currency. This business method did increase the shop's turnover but afterward entailed some suspicious affairs which prompted the responsible organs to follow up the clue and conduct investigations. For example, on 15 April 1983, a capitalist country's specialist working with a factory called P. brought dollars to the shop to settle accounts according to an iron purchase contract. The payment of \$11,786 was written down on a voucher. The next day, Vu Tan told employee Dang Thi Tuong to cancel the voucher and substitute a new one mentioning only \$11,286 in order to deduct \$500. When asked about this amount of dollars, Tan just gave vague explanations!

We know that to do business smoothly at the present time, commercial units often have to "bear" some expenditures above and beyond the system in force and under varied designations such as "improvement," "reward," "bonus," "tip" and "negative expense"... To expand its commercial activities, the Haiphong Intershop could surely not avoid this practical situation in dealing in iron and cement in August 1983 but worth mentioning is the fact that after these dealings, Vu Tan set aside a sum of \$4,695 without recording it on the books and used it to buy 10 Sharp radio sets of the 774 model for distribution within his clique: Vu Tan took 2 sets and Trinh Tuan Tong 3 and the remainder was distributed to Hoang Van Nghin, Dinh Thi Lan, Nguyen Thi Nghi, Nguyen Thi Nga and Ninh Xuan Son one each. After examining this case, the judicial organs decided that these goods were illegally acquired socialist property and ordered the retrieval of these 10 Sharp 774 radio sets.

Thus, in a space of only 2 years (1982-83), Vu Tan and his accomplices took 498,000 dong of bribes and embezzled over 1 million dong worth (at the 1982-83 price rates) of goods including batteries, bicycle spare parts and cloth. Moreover, Vu Tan deliberately violated principles and systems when selling 8 radio sets to employee Nguyen Thi Nga, thus causing a loss of merchandise to the state.

/Coming up before the court/ [in boldface]

Compared with other economic cases tried by the municipal court, the Haiphong Intershop case was not a major one but it had a serious character because almost all key cadres in the shop were involved in bribery and merchandise embezzlement. Even more serious was the fact that the culprits not only set up an organization inside the shop but also induced many outsiders to commit crimes along with them. For these reasons, in its appellate session held in Haiphong on 27 October 1984, the People's Supreme Court handed down the following sentences: Vu Tan, 20 years in prison for accepting the traders' bribes, embezzling and speculating on goods, illegally concealing gold and misusing his function and power in violation of principles and systems; Nguyen Thi Nga, 12 years of imprisonment (including 1 year for illegally concealing 4.6 taels of gold); Nguyen Thi Nghi, 8 years in prison; Dinh Van Lam, 5 years in prison; and the remaining eight accomplices each from 6 months of imprisonment with suspended execution of sentence to 3 years in prison. Public opinion mostly acclaimed the strictness and justice with which the court tried persons hiding behind the Intershop sale counters to grow rich by illegal means.

9332

CSO: 4209/114

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BRIEFS

TREE GUM SMUGGLING--Fraudulent private merchandising and illegal transport of tree gum on the highway coming into the city from Tay Ninh subsided for a while after SAIGON GIAI PHONG published readers' reactions to these practices, but they have now resumed. Every day 10-15 vehicles, each usually with about three persons, carry several dozen kg of tree gum on this road. A number of people also transport gum by bicycle and scooter. In our opinion, the management of socialist property requires total cooperation among the working masses, agencies and units with materials and resources, and public security forces at each level. Only this cooperation can stop goods and products from trickling out. As for private business exchange in goods controlled by the state, whether it is done openly or covertly, it is illegal and should be punished according to established law. [Text] [Nguyen Ngoc Phung, Subward 1, 10th Precinct] [Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 28 Sep 84 p 1] 9830

CSO: 4209/110

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

INDOCHINESE ENVOYS NEW YEAR MEETING IN MOSCOW

OW271058 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] A new year meeting has been held at our country's embassy in Moscow, attended by our country's Ambassador Dinh Nho Liem, PRK ambassador Hor Nam Hong, and LPDR Charge d'Affaires (Vansay Sara). Also present were many leading cadres of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, the South-east Asian Department of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Executive Committee of the USSR-Vietnam Friendship Society.

In a jubilant, fraternity-filled atmosphere, the comrade leaders of the three countries' embassies reported on the great 1984 achievements of the peoples of the three countries in all fields of national construction and defense, and expressed their sincere gratitude to the party, government, and people of the Soviet Union, for their selfless and efficient assistance to the revolutionary cause of the Indochinese people.

CSO: 4209/186

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

NHAN DAN EDITORIAL MARKS INDIA'S NATIONAL DAY

OW260753 Hanoi VNA in English 0716 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 26--The past 35 years have been a period of glorious development of India, with wonderful changes in a nation with an age-old civilization, deep patriotism, and industrious, creative and talented labour, says NHAN DAN in an editorial today.

Marking India's 35th National Day, the Vietnamese national daily says: "Together with other non-aligned nations and the whole of progressive mankind, the Vietnamese people warmly welcome a powerful India, which has made valuable contributions to peace and progress in Asia and the rest of the world and played an important role in the international arena.

"The self-reliant Republic of India is setting an example for developing countries from a dependent economy mainly consisting of exploration and processing industries. Nowadays India has built an independent economy with a modern industry including such key branches as engineering, metallurgy, energy, machine, building and electronics.

"Together with advances of the scientific and technical revolution, the successes of the 'green' and white revolutions as well as the considerable achievements in public health care, culture and education have been constantly changing the face of the country, and step by step improving the people's life.

"We express our admiration for the great socio-economic achievements which have raised India to the ranks of industrially developed countries, making it ever stronger, more modern and prosperous'. [quotation marks as received]

"The foreign policy of peace and progress of the Indian government and people has been highly valued and praised by progressive mankind. India wholeheartedly supports the struggle of nations for peace, detente and disarmament against the arms race and the danger of a nuclear war, and sternly condemns the collusion between the forces of imperialism and expansionism in pursuing the policy of causing regional and international tension and confrontation.

"The fact that India consistently and constantly strengthens friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist community, patiently strives for a new, equitable and fair international economic order,

and its constructive proposals aimed at solving issues of the Southern Asia region and many other areas, have heightened India's position and prestige as the chairperson of the non-aligned movement and in contributing to the settlement of international issues.

"Celebrating their national day this year," NHAN DAN says "the Indian people take legitimate pride in the outstanding achievements recorded in their national construction and defence. In their great contributions to the common cause of mankind the Vietnamese people express their joy at the fact that the Indian Government and people have just overcome serious trials caused by hostile reactionary forces, further strengthened the national unity and continue to advance along the road charted by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Mrs. Indira Gandhi. [paragraph as received]

"The Vietnamese people note with joy that the Indian people have always been standing by their side, and giving them timely support. The political cohesion, friendly relations and cooperation between Vietnam and India, which were painstakingly fostered by the two people's leaders--President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister J. Nehru--are being further developed. The visits to Vietnam by the Indian leaders and the visits to India by Vietnamese leaders have enhanced the sentiments binding the two nations which have long been close friends. The official friendship visit to the Republic of India by Comrade Le Duan, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, in September 1984 was a momentous event that took the Vietnam-India relationship to a new height, with a new essence. The cordial and moving meeting between President of the State Council Truong Chinh and President Giani Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi on the occasion of President Truong Chinh's participation in the funeral of the late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi was a new and fine development in the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and India.

"The selfless support of the Indian Government and people to the national construction and defence of the Vietnamese people, and of the peoples of Kampuchea and Laos is a valuable encouragement to the three fraternal peoples on the Indochinese peninsula'. [quotation marks as received]

CSO: 4200/454

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

SRV LEADERS GREET INDIA ON NATIONAL DAY

OW260901 Hanoi VNA in English 0823 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 25—President of the State Council Truong Chinh and chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong today extended their warmest greetings to President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion of the 35th National Day of the Republic of India.

The Vietnamese leaders say in their joint message:

"Over the past 35 years, the great Indian people, under the leadership of their outstanding leaders, Jawaharal Nehru and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, have overcome untold hardships and trials and recorded very considerable achievements in national construction and defence. With its strong economic and defence potentials and its consistent foreign policy of peace and non-alignment, the Republic of India plays an active and increasingly important role in the common struggle of nations in Asia and the rest of the world for peace, national independence and social progress.

"We note with satisfaction that the solidarity, friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of India, which were painstakingly cultivated by President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Jawaharal Nehru, have been developing constantly and fruitfully, the government and the people of the SRV highly value, and are sincerely grateful for, the heartfelt support and the valuable and effective assistance given by the Indian Government and people to Vietnam in the cause of national liberation and reunification in the past as well as in national construction and defence at present."

The Vietnamese leaders wished the Republic of India greater achievements in the struggle for national solidarity and unity, for defending its security and territorial integrity, and for improving its people's life, thus contributing actively to the maintenance of peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

They also wished the solidarity, the friendly relations and the multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and India further and steady development.

CSO: 4200/454

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR CELEBRATES NATIONAL DAY

OW261754 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 26--Richard Broinowski, Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, gave a reception here this evening marking the 197th Australia Day (January 26).

Minister of Foreign Trade Le Khac; Minister of Justice Phan Hien, assistant to the Foreign Minister Le Mai and many other Vietnamese officials as well as many members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations were present at the reception.

Ambassador Richard Broinowski and Minister Le Khac proposed a toast to the Australia Day, to the further consolidation and development of the friendship and cooperation between Australia and Vietnam in the interests of the two peoples and of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

CSO: 4200/454

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

SRV LEADERS AT INDIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION

OW261802 Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 26--Sadasiva Sivaswami, Indian Charge d'Affaires a.i., gave a reception here today in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Republic of India (January 26).

Present at the reception were Dong Si Nguyen, alternate political bureau member of the Communist Party Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Phan Anh, vice-chairman of the National Assembly; Le Khac, minister of Foreign Trade; Vo Dong Giang, minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dang Hoi Xuan, minister of Public Health and president of the Vietnam-India Friendship Association; lieutenant-general Vu Xuan Chiem, vice-minister of National Defence, and many other Vietnamese officials.

Members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations here were also present.

Indian Charge d'Affaires S. Sivaswami reiterated the Indian people's determination to build a stable and prosperous [words indistinct] the Indian Government's foreign policy of peace and non-alignment. He also praised the long-standing friendship and constantly-broadening cooperation between India and Vietnam and wished these relations further development.

Vice-chairman Dong Sy Nguyen warmly welcomed the great achievements of the Indian people over the past 35 years and highly praised India's prestige in the international arena and in the non-aligned movement. He sincerely thanked the Indian Government and people for their great and valuable support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's national construction and defence. He wished the Indian people new and still greater achievements and affirmed the Vietnamese people's will to whole-heartedly cultivate the Indo-Vietnamese friendship.

CSO: 4200/454

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

AFGHANISTAN SUPPORTS INDOCHINESE, CONDEMNS PRC

OW261758 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 26--The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan fully supports the untiring efforts of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea for peace and stability in Southeast Asia, said Afghanistan's first deputy foreign minister Yurish while receiving Vietnamese Ambassador Van Ba Kiem in Kabul recently.

Informed by the Vietnamese Ambassador of the 10th Conference of the three Indo-chinese foreign ministers and of China's recent armed provocations against Vietnam, the Afghan deputy foreign minister highly appreciated the three Indo-chinese countries' peace initiatives raised in the joint communique of the conference aimed at settling the differences in the region.

The Afghan government and people, he said, vehemently condemn the Chinese hegemomists' aggressive acts against Vietnam, fully support the Vietnamese foreign ministry spokesman's statement of January 18, 1984, and firmly demand that China return Vietnamese territories it has illegally occupied to Vietnam and immediately end its shelling of Vietnamese territory.

CSO: 4200/454

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

HUNGARY RENEWS PLEDGE TO SUPPORT VIETNAM

OW261748 Hanoi VNA in English 1448 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 26--"Hungary will continue its support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause in the spirit of internationalism," said president of the Hungarian Council of Ministers Gyorgy Lazar when receiving Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Lung in Budapest Thursday.

President Gyorgy Lazar pointed to the possibility to further broaden the multifaceted cooperation between Hungary and Vietnam. He highly valued Vietnam's efforts for a peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia, as well as Vietnam's assistance to its neighbours, particularly the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

CSO: 4200/454

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

BRIEFS

INDIAN AMBASSADOR LEAVES--Hanoi VNA Jan 24--Indian Ambassador Kuldip Shadap has left here, concluding his term of office in Vietnam. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0807 GMT 25 Jan 85]

FAO GIVES AID--Hanoi VNA Jan 25--The director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on January 18 passed an emergency aid of 10,000 tons of food to the Vietnamese provinces hit by storm Agnes in 1984. This aid, worth U.S. dollar 4.6 million, was initiated by the executive director of the World Food Programme (WFP). [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0828 GMT 26 Jan 85]

HUNGARIAN SINGERS RECEIVED--Hanoi VNA January 26--A five-member Hungarian political song troupe led by artist Andras Vanga visited Vietnam from January 4-25 as guests of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee. During its stay, the troupe performed in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, paid tribute at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visited the late president's residence and office. It was awarded the "Friendship Medal" by the chairman of the council of ministers. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 26 Jan 85]

MESSAGE SENT ALBANIA'S ALIA--Hanoi VNA January 26--President of the State Council Truong Chinh today sent a message to Ramiz Alia, president of the Presidium of the Albanian People's Assembly, expressing his kind regards and deep sympathy to the victims of recent heavy falls of snow in Albania. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1444 GMT 26 Jan 85]

GREETINGS TO AUSTRALIA--Hanoi VNA January 26--Truong Chinh president of the Vietnamese State Council, has sent a message of greetings to Governor-General of Australia Ninian M. Stephen, on the 197th Australia Day (January 26). On this occasion, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has also sent his greetings to his Australian counterpart, Bill Hayden. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 26 Jan 85]

CSO: 4200/454

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

LE DUAN ADDRESSES HANOI GET-TOGETHER 20 JANUARY

BK231059 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0300 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] On the morning of 20 January, that is, the 30th day of the 12th month of the lunar calendar, the party and people's committees of Hanoi municipality jointly held a cordial get-together to greet Comrade Le Duan, general secretary of the party Central Committee, who was calling on the cadres, combatants, and people in the capital on the occasion of the year of the Ox Tet festival. Comrades Le Van Luong, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Hanoi municipal party committee; Tran Vy, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Hanoi municipal people's committee, a large number of representatives of various sectors and mass organizations; and numerous notables and intellectuals in the capital warmly welcomed the comrade general secretary.

On behalf of the party organization and people of Hanoi, Comrade Le Van Luong expressed the most cordial sentiments toward the comrade general secretary, the highest-ranking leader of the party who has contributed much energy and effort to leading the anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation to total victory and who, together with the party Central Committee, is today leading the entire party, people, and armed forces in overcoming untold difficulties and hardships to successfully carry out various socioeconomic tasks in the initial stage of the period of transition to socialism and to firmly defend the homeland. In the past years, Comrade Le Duan has always paid attention to each step forward of the capital in economic and cultural transformation and building. Comrade Le Van Luong wished the comrade general secretary good health and promised to motivate the party organization and people in the capital to make an all-out effort to bring about a drastic change in implementing the resolutions of the sixth and seventh party Central Committee plenums.

Addressing the participants in the spring-welcoming get-together, Comrade Le Duan recalled some memories of Hanoi before the August revolution, where he had worked in 1929 and 1930 and had taken part in the local party organization. He highly appreciated the stalwart fighting spirit and the will to endure hardship of Hanoi, which, together with the northern provinces, fulfilled the tasks of the great rear during the anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation.

The comrade general secretary was glad to note that Hanoi has undergone important changes and that it made remarkable progress in 1984. However, he sternly demanded that Hanoi firmly maintain and bring into full play the

traditions of a capital city with a 1,000-year-old civilization. Hanoi must strongly advance to the new and be more dynamic and responsive in production and business. It must launch a truly vigorous revolutionary movement of the masses to promote productive labor, build a life-style with culture, and stand ready to fight in defense of the capital. The comrade general secretary stressed: To achieve this aim, the Hanoi party committee must thoroughly understand--and see to it that all the Hanoi Party party organizations and working people thoroughly understand--the party's line and the viewpoint of socialist collective mastery. It must apply this viewpoint in building Hanoi's economic structure, in organizing production and management, and in linking the interests and life of each person and each family with those of the entire society.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, the comrade general secretary joyously presented his Tet greetings to the brother and sister cadres present at the get-together and asked them to convey his new year greetings to each family of the cadres, workers, civil servants, and armed forces combatants in the capital.

The comrade representatives of workers, collectivized peasants, and socialist intellectuals and the comrade secretary of the Ba Dinh precinct party committee wished Comrade Le Duan good health and promised to make an effort to implement the comrade general secretary's solicitous recommendations. A number of artists and children presented Comrade Le Duan with some fine arts objects as gifts and gave a performance in his honor. The get-together proceeded in an extremely cordial and cosy atmosphere.

CSO: 4209/186

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

LE DUAN CALLS ON AVIATION WORKERS AT AIRPORT

BK231014 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] En route from Ho Chi Minh City back to Hanoi, Comrade Le Duan, general secretary of the party Central Committee, called on cadres, combatants, and workers of the Vietnamese civil aviation service working at Tan Son Nhat Airport. After hearing a report by Comrade (Phan Tuong), director of the airport, on the operations of his unit over the past few years, the comrade general secretary cordially addressed the commanding cadres and representatives of various components at the airport. He recalled the heroic traditions of the nation and the VPA and advised the cadres, party members, combatants, and workers of the civil aviation service to make every effort in their study to constantly cultivate revolutionary virtues and to firmly grasp advanced technology in order to make the Vietnamese civil aviation service one of the country's important economic and technical sectors.

Comrade (Phan Tuong) solemnly presented his Tet greetings to Comrade General Secretary Le Duan and promised to convey his cordial regards to each cadre, combatant, and worker and to motivate his unit to translate this great encouragement into revolutionary actions so as to successfully carry out its tasks for the historic year of 1985.

CSO: 4209/186

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

LE THANH NGHI PAYS TET VISIT TO HAI HUNG PROVINCE

BK231623 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] In the lively atmosphere of the celebration of the year of the Ox Tet, Comrade Le Thanh Nghi, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of State, has visited and presented his Tet greetings to Hai Hung Province.

Comrade Nguyen Van Phuc, chairman of the provincial people's committee, and Comrade Ngo Quang Dao, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee, guided Comrade Le Thanh Nghi on a visit to the Pha Lai thermoelectric power plant, the Hoang Thach cement factory, Chi Linh and Tu Loc Districts, the Gia Khanh and Cong Lac cooperatives in Chau Giang District, and the Me So cooperative.

In the atmosphere of celebration of the spring of 1985, Comrade Le Thanh Nghi and Comrade Nguyen Van Phuc participated in the Tet tree-planting campaign in Tu Loc District and Gia Khanh and Cong Lac villages, thereby beginning a tree-planting movement to show eternal gratitude to Uncle Ho.

CSO: 4209/186

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

VO NGUYEN GIAP VISITS THANH HOA, HANOI

BK231629 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, has visited and presented his Tet greetings to the cadres and people of Thanh Hoa Province.

Comrade Ha Trong Hoa, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee, and Comrade Ha Van Ban, chairman of the provincial people's committee, together with other comrade veteran revolutionaries and representatives of scientific, technical, and educational cadres of Thanh Hoa Province, welcomed Vice Chairman Vo Nguyen Giap.

Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap attended a cordial get-together of veteran revolutionary cadres who had worked for many years in Thanh Hoa before the August revolution and during the anti-French war of resistance. He called on and addressed representatives of the province's scientific, technical, and educational cadres and visited an exhibition of Thanh Hoa's economic and technical achievements.

Comrade Vo Nguyen Giap also visited and presented his Tet greetings to the party and people's committees of Dong Da precinct, Hanoi, and cordially addressed the comrade leaders and representatives of various sectors in the precinct.

CSO: 4209/186

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

VAN TIEN DUNG TET VISIT TO BORDER DEFENSE FORCES

BK231213 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] On the 1st day of the Year of the Ox Tet, Senior General Van Tien Dung, member of the party Central Committee [uyr vileen ban chaaps hanhf trung uwoung dqangr] and minister of national defense, called on and presented his Tet greetings to the border defense forces.

Addressing a large number of border defense cadres and combatants, Comrade Van Tien Dung said: Last year, under the party's leadership, our entire people and army surmounted numerous difficulties and trials and recorded many important achievements in carrying out the two strategic tasks. Together with the people of various nationalities, the people's armed forces, and the people's public security forces, you have surged forward, overcome obstacles, and achieved victories, thereby contributing to maintaining security and firmly defending the homeland's borders.

Comrade Van Tien Dung commended the border defense forces for having brought into full play, with intelligence and creativity, an invaluable tradition of our nation and party--the tradition of self-reliance--to create an aggregate strength to resolve all questions in accordance with the specific conditions and capabilities of the country. The border defense forces have scored new exploits in honor of the founding anniversary of the glorious CPV and other major national anniversaries in 1985.

Comrade Lieutenant General Dinh Van Tuy, on behalf of the border defense cadres and combatants, expressed profound gratitude to the comrade minister for reserving affectionate sentiments for border defense combatants and for his regular annual visits to the border defense forces on behalf of the party, the state, and the army. Comrade Dinh Van Tuy promised to resolutely implement all party and army directives in the most outstanding possible manner.

CSO: 4209/186

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

DONG SI NGUYEN PAYS TET VISIT TO HA BAC PROVINCE

BK231521 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] On the occasion of the year of the Ox Tet, Comrade Dong Si Nguyen, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, has visited and presented his Tet greetings to the party organization and people of Ha Bac Province.

Comrade Nguyen Thanh Guat, secretary of the provincial party committee; Truong The Cuu, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee; and other comrade members of the provincial party committee's standing committee warmly welcomed Comrade Dong Si Nguyen and informed him of the socioeconomic situation and the life of the people of various nationalities in Ha Bac.

CSO: 4209/186

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

DO MUOI VISITS HANOI GARBAGE COLLECTING TEAM

BK231411 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 05. 23 Jan 85

[Text] Comrade Do Muoi, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, has visited and presented his Tet greetings to the sister workers of garbage collecting team No 1 of the sanitation enterprise of Ba Dinh precinct, Hanoi, who were working on Le Hong Phong Road. Comrade Do Muoi was accompanied by Comrade Phan Ngoc Tuong, minister of building.

Vice Chairman Do Muoi solicitously inquired after, commended, and presented Tet gifts to members of the garbage collecting team. He also reminded the precinct party committee and administration to pay special attention to the livelihood of the sister sanitation workers, who help make the capital clean and beautiful.

On behalf of the 18 workers of the team, which has won the title of Socialist Labor Unit for 17 consecutive years, sister (Nguyen Thi Khoa), outstanding emulator and team leader, reported to Vice Chairman Do Muoi on the work of her team and her enterprise since their units were placed under the management of Ba Dinh precinct. She promised to do a better job of keeping the streets of the capital clean and beautiful.

CSO: 4209/186

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

TRUONG CHINH PAYS VISIT TO TAY SON DISTRICT

BK240432 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] During his recent visit to Nghia Binh Province, Chairman Truong Chinh visited Tay Son District and composed the poem "A Visit To Quang Trung Museum" praising the armed exploit against the Qing troops of the modestly clad hero Nguyen Hue to liberate the country:

Tay Son's spirit of valor spreads all over the country,
The poorly clad hero, with national flags fluttering,
Saved the people and defended the country's border.
His cause obviously created national unity,
Giving today's generation a reason for pride.
In developing the traditions, their spirit are soaring high,
Great mountains and rivers are full of fragrant flower cascades.
How beautiful were hills imbued with the blood of the glorious past
generations!

CSO: 4209/186

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

VO VAN KIET PAYS TET VISIT TO PHU KHANH PROVINCE

BK231315 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the party Central Committee [uyr vileen ban chaps hanhf trung uwowng dqangr] and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, recently visited Phu Khanh province to inspect the implementation of the resolution of the seventh party Central Committee plenum.

Comrade Nguyen Xuan Huu, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee, Comrade (Vo Hoa), member of the standing committee of the provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee; and other comrade members of the standing committees of the provincial party and people's committees reported to Comrade Vo Van Kiet on the implementation of the 1984 and 1985 state plans in Phu Khanh in accordance with the spirit of the resolution of the seventh party Central Committee plenum. They also accompanied Comrade Vo Van Kiet on a visit to the Hinh River economic zone, where they inspected the preparations for the building of the Hinh River hydroelectric power project, and to the Da Ban water conservancy project, the Da Ban cotton state farm, and the Nhatrang department store, a center of Phu Khanh's economic activities. They also called on cadres and combatants in Truong Giang District.

On the occasion of the lunar new year, Comrade Vo Van Kiet conveyed the solicitous regards of the party Central Committee, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers to the local people, cadres, and armed forces combatants. He voiced his hopes that in 1985 the party organization, armed forces, and people of Phu Khanh will score many new and even greater successes.

CSO: 4209/186

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

PHAM VAN DONG PAYS TET VISIT TO HO CHI MINH CITY

BK251646 Hanoi VNA in English 1630 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 25 -- Pham Van Dong, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has visited Ho Chi Minh City on the occasion of the traditional Tet (lunar new year) festival.

On January 21 (the first day of the lunar new year) Chairman Pham Van Dong cordially met with the city party and peoples committee and expressed his pleasure over the marked efforts and achievements of the city population over the past years since liberation.

More than 500 cadres and people held a meeting at the Thong Nhat (unity) hall in the city on the same day to welcome Chairman Pham Van Dong.

During his stay in Ho Chi Minh City, the chairman also paid Tet visits to cadres and workers of the food company, to a number of army units and to the city's spring fair.

CSO: 4200/454

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

ANTI-QING DYNASTY BATTLE MARKED IN HANOI

OW260831 Hanoi VNA in English 0810 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 25--A ceremony in commemoration of the victorious Dong Da battle against the feudal Chinese aggressors 196 years ago was held at the Dong Da mound here today--on the 5th day of the lunar new year.

Representatives of the Hanoi party and people's committees, and large numbers of Hanoians were present on the occasion.

This is the decisive battle of the Vietnamese army under the leadership of the national hero Nguyen Hue, or King Quang Trung, in which they destroyed a 290,000-strong Chinese army of the Qing Dynasty and completely liberated the country.

CS0: 4200/454

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE

PRODUCT QUALITY CITED AS COMMON ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, SOCIAL CONCERN

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 21 Sep 84 p 2

[Remarks made by Le Dinh Phuong, deputy chief of the HCMC Municipal Standards, Measurements, and Quality Branch, at a forum inaugurating the "Movement To Raise Industrial, Small Industry, and Handicrafts Product Quality," organized by SAIGON GIAI PHONG]

[Text] Product quality is not only a technical problem, but is a common economic, technical, and social problem. Product quality is affected by many factors, such as general production standards and each country's policy on product quality policy, national standards and regulations, scientific and technical achievements, the capability of cadres, the level of equipment and tools of production, regulations and means of distribution and circulation, and the system of product use and exploitation.

Because of this complicated situation, to increase product quality requires many organizations in the society to participate in problem solving and requires the formation of a quality control system and the determination of principles of operation for that system.

But what is product quality? In production, products have a general tendency to increase constantly in the number of sizes and types and in structural complexity. Product quality starts right with product planning and design. In production, quality is manifested from the beginning to the end of the process of preparing for production and of production. Quality can also be maintained in the distribution phase and in the process of use. Only in use and through use is product quality displayed to the fullest, and only then do people have a scientific basis and practical experience for continuing to perfect product quality in the course of subsequent production.

Based on general, international viewpoints in conjunction with the realities of our country, three points can be made regarding product quality:

First of all, product quality is a combination of all characteristic standards, manifested in technical improvements or increased value to use of the products. These standards can usually be measured or compared, and they consist of a combination of many standards characteristic of the product. Food quality does not depend exclusively on nutritional value, but must include standards

of hygiene and taste. The quality of soap must include the fatty acid content, displayed in its capability to cleanse, but must also include such factors as the amount of suds, the alkali content, and the contents of substances harmful to material and skin.

Second, to speak of the quality of a product requires determination of the degree to which that product satisfies the goals set for it beforehand—that is, the design plan, technical standards, and product models tested and accepted in the process of product testing and approved by the authorized agency for mass production.

Third, product quality must be established in the specific economic, technical, and social circumstances and conditions of the country, in order to realize the greatest economic effectiveness.

Sense of Responsibility Not Yet Fully Manifested

In recent years, there have been many changes in the organization of goods and product quality management in a number of sectors and localities. Yet this work is still generally not well grounded, still relaxed. The production mentality of chasing after quantity and minimizing the importance of quality is still rather widespread. The producer does not yet display a full sense of responsibility to the state and the consumer. In the year 1982-1983, the General Merchandise Enterprise received 70 lots of merchandise valued at tens of millions of dong from 18 enterprises, that was discovered to be below standards and had to be repaired; prices had to be lowered for 2 lots found to be of poor quality. In 1983, the Bicycle and Motorcycle Corporation (Ministry of Home Trade) also received and took action on a number of bicycles and bicycle parts, valued at 10 million dong, that were found to be of poor quality. Many cases were prosecuted because food processed without observing standards of quality was put into state-operated trade warehouses. The commodities acquisition team of the 1st Precinct Commerce Enterprise, for instance, discovered tens of thousands of dong worth of goods that did not meet specifications and required repayment for them. Through inspections in the distribution and circulation phase, inspections of the General Merchandise Enterprise uncovered tons of imported flint that had crumbled, millions of razor blades that had turned rusty, and millions of sewing needles that were brittle and easily broken, because of improper care.

In recent years, trade agencies have concentrated on trying to put clauses pertaining to standards of quality into contracts, particularly noting the phases of packaging and labeling, warranty periods, and commodity testing when the merchandise is delivered. But the effort to record and implement quality control and measurement clauses in marketing economic contracts between units within the trade sector are not yet firm, do not follow rules and regulations, and lack equality. Eighty percent of these contracts fail to guarantee requirements. Many contracts do not have clauses regarding merchandise quality, and some of them are general, merely paying lip service with such phrases as "product quality in accordance with standards set by the state," or "purchase 500,000 dong worth of aluminum end products of every type." This

situation has been dragging on for many years, because the seller is reluctant to put clauses regarding the quality of merchandise in contracts for fear of their being enforced, and the buyer does not protest for fear of being short of goods. Many processing contracts are also in the above category, not agreeing about the goals of materials usage and about standards of quality and classification, which creates loopholes for installations to exploit to cut corners with materials and make goods of poor quality.

Another factor limiting the improvement in product quality is our lack of formal regulations as a legal basis for product and commodity quality control and lack of regulations and policies encouraging high quality. Among the tens of thousands of items in the inventories of state-operated trade, only about 500 items have standards for all categories. That is not taking into consideration that some standards are out of date or no longer applicable, yet do not get reviewed and corrected, so it is as if they are no longer in effect, as with the state standards on dimensions of mats, wood items, and bicycle tires and tubes. Many standards also cause trouble and complicate usage because conditions, levels, and habits of production and consumption differ from area to area, as is the case with regulations on classifying fish, soap, and monosodium glutamate.

In addition to units not seeing to standardization, measurement, and quality control, in many enterprises, the inspection element is not only weak, with little effectiveness, but also lacks objectivity in its operation. This is not an uncommon occurrence, primarily due to shortcomings in organization such as assigning the inspection element duties not associated with product quality, assigning people in poor health, unskilled persons, or children to the inspection element, or not seeing that the minimum conditions are provided for inspection.

Moreover, irregular production planning and unsure organization and management have made it hard to ensure product quality. Materials and equipment supplied both fail to meet material specifications and are limited in quantity and usually are not on time. Pricing policy still has many irrationalities: commodities of the same quality are bought or sold at different prices and, contrariwise, commodities of different quality sell at the same price--soap with 50 percent fatty acid, for instance, sells for the same price as soap with 70 percent fatty acid.

Urgent Needs

It is now an urgent matter for the quality of products and commodities to be raised. From now until the end of 1984, and over the next years, we must concentrate efforts on stabilizing and gradually improving the quality of the main products in the sectors of the national economy, especially in a number of construction materials, food, clothing, writing supplies, medicines, and many other essentials.

To do this, we must implement several measures:

The first is to implement operations to control the quality of products and commodities that are effective in production and business. Production plans must be built on the basis of insuring quality, with quantities then set. Standards setting must be perfected. Standards of the state must be applied to main products widely related to business in many sectors and in many localities and to the daily life of the people. When there are not yet state standards, sector, local, or enterprise standards must be clearly determined. All economic contracts must clearly set standards of product and commodity quality, including penalties for not maintaining quality. New products must be registered for testing before economic contracts are signed and mass production started.

Commodity quality control activities must be strengthened and expanded in the trade network, especially in the key phases of purchasing and sales, receipt of commodities from production, taking action to prevent substandard goods and counterfeit goods from entering the state-operated trade sector and ensure that 100 percent of the total volume of essential and high-value goods are high in quality. Localities must take the initiative to coordinate closely with quality control agencies to spot poor-quality goods and strictly punish violations against quality.

On the other hand, the quality of products and commodities must be thoroughly centralized, enabling production installations to stabilize, guarantee, and increase product quality. We should establish product projects early for production installations so that they have enough time to prepare for production, thereby putting an end to the practice of going into large-scale production without having tested production or having authenticated quality. Coordination of supply of the principal materials must ensure that supplies are timely and of sufficient quantity and quality in keeping with the spirit of the recently published Resolution 6. Wrapping and packaging must be considered key matters in preparation for production. Organization of warehouses and storage are presently weak links that must be provided with capital and corrected. And a factor that must not be slighted is regular research and application of scientific and technical advances to support, improve, and raise the quality of products and commodities.

Another important matter is for cadres to enforce regulations pertaining to quality control of products and commodities. These are the regulations on registering authorization to manufacture new products, ceasing production of products not meeting qualitative requirements or with a low value of use, regulations managing standardization and measurement and quality control, and regulations on awards and punishments regarding quality and price according to product category.

Simultaneously with the above measures, it is necessary to concentrate on promoting propaganda and education on the importance of product quality, causing a strong change in ideological and action awareness of management cadres towards workers and laborers directly involved in production, making everyone clearly perceive his responsibility toward insuring product quality. In a timely way, we must recognize good people doing good work to ensure the

quality of products and commodities, strictly censure and appropriately deal with violations of standards of quality and habits of troublemaking, reckless behavior, and chasing after quantity and profits. In addition to ideological work, we must strengthen organizational work, administrative management, and the use of economic leverage and strict application of penalties and awards.

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CSO: 4209/108

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

NHAN DAN CALLS FOR INCREASED MARKET CONTROL

BK231023 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Dec 84 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Exert Mastery in the Market"]

[Text] Our people's daily life is closely related with the market. In his address to the party Central Committee's Sixth Plenum, Comrade General Secretary Le Duan pointed out: "Without market control, we cannot achieve control over production, distribution, and circulation, and stabilize prices, our currency, and the laboring people's lives."

Of late, fully aware of various resolutions of the party, many sectors, localities, and grassroots-level units have devised programs and plans and have adopted a correct and dynamic working attitude suitable to the real situation in each particular locality for achieving control over the market through construction, transformation, and management efforts with the emphasis placed on building socialist trade, enabling socialist trade to replace other economic elements on the market, and ensuring that all trade activities on the market are carried out in accordance with the law and are mainly handled by the socialist trade sector. The trading volume of the socialist trade sector and of marketing cooperatives in the socialist market has increased sharply. A number of marketable items such as grain and pork account for 80 percent. In certain localities such as Hanoi and Quang Nam-Danang, such items constitute more than 90 percent of the total trading volume. A number of food items and catering services have increased in 40-50 percent over the past few months as compared with 20 percent in the early months of the year. The socialist market has, in fact, been gradually expanded. The scope of activities of the private trade sector have been gradually reduced. Thousands of small traders have been shifted to production or recruited to work with the state-run trade sector and with marketing cooperatives. The socialist order in distribution and circulation has gradually been reestablished. Despite the fact that the economy is still beset with severe imbalance coupled with repeated natural calamities as seen in the past few months in all the northern, central, and southern regions, the supply of almost all of essential commodities to workers, civil servants, and troops in accordance with set quota has been maintained and market prices have undergone little fluctuation. All this has been achieved thanks to various localities' efforts to step up production while exercising constant control over the market. Facts show that while production has not yet developed and the amount of goods available is not large enough, if the socialist trade sector knows how to exert

correct efforts to control the market, it will be fully able to do this job. Only when the state secures the sources of goods and money and controls the market and prices can it have conditions for promoting increased production, stabilizing the people's lives, and on this basis, proceeding toward achieving market control at a higher extent. It is incorrect to think that only when increased production has been achieved and goods are available in large quantities can the socialist trade sector surge forward to grasp the sources of goods and money and exercise market control.

Improvements achieved in the past few months in market construction, transformation, and management must be developed. Future efforts must be directed at promptly effecting a radical change in the balance of power in the market between the socialist trade sector and free market forces, doing away with black marketeering, severely punishing speculators and smugglers, resolutely struggling against the enemy's saboteurs and their accomplices, and rearranging those forces on the organized market.

Through effective measures, the state must grasp the sources of goods and money and must promptly exercise its unified management and monopoly over the buying and selling of those goods that are most important to the welfare of the nation and the people, especially grain and other strategic goods such as industrial goods produced by state-run establishments, manufactured by the state under labor contracts, or imported by the state. The tasks of transforming private trade, exercising market management, and fighting speculators, smugglers, and those engaged in illegal dealings must be carried out in accordance with each particular kind of commodity, especially essential goods. Simultaneously, efforts must be made to develop the state-run trade forces and marketing co-operatives. We will not be able to exercise market control, do away with capitalist trade, and transform small traders if we fail to resolve satisfactorily a problem of decisive importance, namely striving to develop socialist trade, rationally delineating the duties between trade sectors, between state-run trade corporations at the central and local levels, and between the state-run trade sector and marketing cooperatives. We must expand and improve the trading methods of the socialist trade sector, trying to make the socialist trade sector capable of exercising leadership over the market and influencing private traders in all markets, over all kinds of goods, at any moment, and in all areas. Any localities where there are production, construction, an organized life, and demands for commodities must have socialist trade. The reorganization of the market requires that we must resolutely transform and rearrange all trading activities of small traders, strictly carry out state inventories and control, be determined not to grant business licenses for those kinds of goods under state management, closely control and severely punish those registered to deal in one kind of goods but illegally trading in others. The market is an integrated whole that cannot be divided according to each locality or each area. Close cooperation is needed between localities, between areas, and between units and branches in carrying out transformation and management over each kind of commodity. Every echelon and sector must see to it that efforts to resolve market-related problems are closely linked with efforts to resolve problems facing their own sectors and must organize themselves in such a way as to carry out satisfactorily their assigned tasks.

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